



CAPARO CHIEFS FACE GRILLING

Report by Simon Penfold

CAPARO bosses are set to face hard questions about how the £370m-a-year company has come to the point of collapse, putting up to 1,700 jobs at risk – most of them in the Black Country.

Some question whether Caparo's largely unsuccessful venture into building a road-legal supercar may have played a role in its current woes.

A large team from accountants PwC – Price-waterhouseCoopers – is now at work on the administration of Caparo Industries, assessing which parts can be saved and sold.

Caparo Industries, part of the wider Caparo group owned by Lord Paul of Marylebone – Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton – is the biggest manufacturing business in the Black Country.

Based in Oldbury, it has 20 other sites at Cradley Heath, Willenhall, Bilston, West Bromwich and Wednesbury.

Some businesses within the group almost certainly face closure, with the loss of potentially hundreds of local jobs.

While the current steel crisis – which on Monday claimed 1,200 more jobs with Tata announcing redundancies in Scunthorpe and Scotland – has been cited as the cause of its woes, that may not be the only factor in the collapse of Caparo Industries.

Impact

Matt Hammond, lead administrator from PwC, said: "The impact of steel prices and exchange rates has had an impact on some parts of the Caparo Industries group. However, there are businesses in the group that are not directly affected by steel prices, and likewise many where there is both strong customer demand and critical supplier support."

Those looking for other factors in the collapse have pointed to the heavy expense of developing the Caparo T1 two-seater sports car. Initially launched in 2007, the plan was to make up to 25 a year with a price tag of more than £200,000 apiece, but the project ran into the recession and it is thought no more than 30 were made.

The sports car business went quiet until an apparent relaunch last year of the Caparo T1 Evolution 'hypercar', this time with a price per car of 1.1 million euros, or £800,000.

Apart from a few public appearances, such as its appearance in police livery as part of a campaign against dangerous driving at the Autocar International show at the NEC in January, nothing more has been heard.

Development of the car and use of advanced carbon technology composites will have been expensive and it does not appear to have produced the sales necessary to cover those costs.

RESIDENTS' GROUP TO PROTECT PARK AND HOMES



Friends of Hawne Park, from left, Jim McHardy Dan Rudge, Sandra McHardy and Paul Thurlow on a walk through the popular beauty spot

PEOPLE power is transforming a former crime-ridden park in Halesowen.

Hawne Park had become a magnet for drug addicts and vandals but residents are now saying 'enough is enough' and have formed a friends' group to protect their park.

The group, formed by the residents of Carol Crescent, is already working to revamp the park.

Members are working towards funding for a new gate, improved entrances and a new footpath from Short Street.

They are also aiming for four new football

pitches, fencing improvements and a toddlers playground.

The friends' group said many break-ins occurred in the area as thieves hid in the park's overgrown bushes and woodland, with at least 19 burglaries in the area in the last year.

After Sandra McHardy's neighbour was burgled, she decided to pull together with husband Jim and neighbour Paul Thurlow to create the Friends of Hawne Park.

They have held a meeting with police, councillors and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, as well as get-togethers with

Belle Vale councillors Ian Cooper, Donella Russell, Bob James, Simon Phipps.

Councillor Cooper said Dudley Council had already improved street lighting in the area and the group's efforts were 'greatly welcomed'.

Chairman of the group, Paul Thurlow, aged 57, said: "We've seen the community really come together after we created the group and thousands of pamphlets have gone out to residents within the last few weeks, which has a questionnaire illustrating what improvements people would like to see at the park."

STADIUM

Speedway track hopes are dashed

PLANS for a Cradley Heathens speedway stadium near Merry Hill have fallen through. Talks have been taking place for three years to over a stadium near the huge shopping complex for the former Dudley Wood based club.

But club chairman Nigel Pearson, who is stepping down with partners Chris Van Straaten and Gary Patchett next season, said he had been told the site is reserved for another development.

He added: "The council have, however, agreed to revisit previous sites. This process will continue."

CHILDREN

Parents prompt nursery U-turn

BOSSES have scrapped plans to cut opening times and reduce the number of children at a popular nursery

Rowley Owls Nursery, run by neighbouring Rowley Hall Primary School, launched a consultation on proposals to open for fewer hours and only take children aged two and above.

Dozens of parents signed a petition opposing the plans.

Nicola Stanley, headteacher at Rowley Hall Primary, said: "It seems parents and children really love what we are doing and want to keep the nursery as it is."

TRESPASS

Police stepping up patrols at quarry

YOUTHS trespassing at a quarry in Rowley Regis have prompted police to increase patrols around the site.

Young people are reported to be congregating and drinking alcohol at the Edwin Richards Quarry on Portway Road, with graffiti being sprayed on buildings and fires being lit.

Rowley Regis' local neighbourhood police team are conducting regular patrols to deter any further problems.

Earlier this year bosses at Edwin Richards Quarry warned of the dangers of trespassing at the quarry. FCC Environment stepped up their own patrols.

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250 jobs are axed at BMet college sites

MORE than 250 jobs have been axed by a college which has campuses in Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) has confirmed that all but six of the employees had left voluntarily following its workforce review.

Bosses say they had been forced to slash the number of posts at the college, which runs sites in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster, due to a reduction in funding.

Principal Andrew Cleaves said a total of 246 people opted for voluntary severance while there were also six compulsory redundancies.

He added it had been 'a challenging process' for

the college, funding having been cut by a third in recent years.

The workforce review was announced in April this year.

"Earlier this year, the college announced it needed to make efficiencies in order to respond to reductions in funding," he said.

"We had a good response to our voluntary severance programme and delivered most of our targeted savings through this scheme."

He continued: "We worked closely with staff and their representatives and 246 posts were accepted for voluntary severance, with only six staff made redundant."

"Whilst this was a difficult exercise for all concerned, we were pleased that we were able to minimise the number of redundancies."

"We have moved through this challenging process and remain a strong organisation delivering education and training to local communities and regional businesses, building the skills needed for future prosperity," added Mr Cleaves.

Before the staff cuts, BMet had 1,600 staff across 13 sites which include Stourbridge's Hagley Road campus, Brierley Hill's Art and Design Centre and Advanced Technology Centre, the James Watt campus in Great Barr and Kidderminster Academy.

Greed got the better of cannabis grower

A CANNABIS grower from Halesowen who started supplying street dealers when greed got the better of him has been jailed.

Scott Wheelwright grew drugs with an estimated value of up to £25,000 at his Stourdell Road home.

Police raided the property in January and found 28 plants, of which 16 were still growing and could have fetched between £2,800 and £11,000 depending on crop.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that police tracked the 26-year-old down after arresting brothers George and Daniel Beddall, of Oldwell Road, Stourbridge. Both pleaded guilty last month to possession of a Class B drug with intent to supply.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said 31-year-old Daniel and his brother George were addicted to cannabis. He added: "Mr Wheelwright was growing the cannabis that was then being supplied directly by him to others, including George and Daniel Beddall, who would then go on to supply to other users."

On October 22 last year, George was stopped by police and found with five bags of cannabis valued at £50. Searching the brothers' home, officers found 120 grams of cannabis valued at £760-£1,000, cash, 'grip seal' bags, scales, and a 'dealer list'.

Officers linked the trio via their text messages and arrested 26-year-old Wheelwright on January 13.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, mitigating for Wheelwright, said: "He admitted that he became greedy and saw it as an easy way to make extra money."

Daniel Beddall has since secured a good job and addressed his cannabis addiction, Mr Gurdeep Garcha, mitigating, said. Mr Richard Davenport, mitigating for George Beddall, said the 23-year-old, who has mental health issues, has been on a disability living allowance and was selling to fund his addiction. He had since come off drugs.

Wheelwright, who had earlier pleaded guilty to cultivation of a Class B drug and supply, was jailed for 12 months. Recorder Richard Atkinson sentenced both Daniel and George Beddall to eight months' jail suspended for two years, 120 hours' unpaid work, and four month curfew.

Recorder Atkinson said: "Cannabis is not harmless. It is a drug which has dangerous side effects and is socially corrosive."

Grit-ting ready for winter weather



Councillor Hilary Bills and Matt Williams, chief officer for Environmental Services, look at the grit mountain

A MOUNTAIN of grit is ready for Dudley Council to help keep drivers stays safe on the borough's roads across as temperatures begin to drop and a harsh winter is being predicted.

Teams from Dudley Council have been stockpiling more than 6,000 tons of rock salt to treat the highways this autumn and winter.

Grit is kept at warehouses at the council depot in Lister Road, Netherton, and taken out by teams of

lorries when ice and snow threaten.

There are 10 gritting lorries and two towable trucks available to around 60 staff who work on the gritting team, including drivers, loaders, mechanics and supervisors.

Dudley Councillor Hilary Bills, in charge of environmental services, said: "Preparations are in hand ahead of any severe weather."

"We have a total of 6,400 tonnes of salt in stock. Our gritting team

will be on hand to work around the clock to keep almost 300 miles of roads clear during any severe weather.

"We also have a network of over 1,000 grit bins across the borough which will be filled ready for people to use when the freezing weather comes."

People can find their nearest grit bin by typing in their postcode to the 'Find My Local' section at www.dudley.gov.uk website.

Council get extra funds for electric car charging

CHARGING points for electric vehicles will be installed on three car parks across Dudley borough as part of a £164,000 project.

Dudley Council has received funding from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles to help cover the cost of installing the new equipment.

The car parks selected for the charging points are in Stafford Street, Dudley, Level Street, Brierley Hill and at Andrew Road, Halesowen.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, will discuss the proposals and the fees at a meeting today (Thu).

A report says: "From experience of units operating elsewhere in the country, it is recommended a minimum charge of £2.50 for a 10 minute charge followed by a 25p charge for every minute thereafter."

Trial

"It is recommended this charge is introduced on a trial basis and reviewed after the charging points have been operational for a few months."

"The pricing structure will then be reviewed annually with other published fees and charges."

The council will be putting £14,000 into the scheme from its own transport budget.

Birmingham City Council has 18 charging points available for electric vehicles.

Two teachers quit over allegations

TWO teachers resigned before they were sacked from Dudley schools over allegations they had sexual relationships with pupils.

The teachers quit after separate investigations were launched. The schools they taught at have not been disclosed but Dudley Council confirmed the teachers were investigated and 'resigned before dismissal'.

Councillor Ian Cooper, who heads children's services, said: "We cannot comment on the specifics of either case but we take allegations of improper conduct of this nature very seriously. Dudley Council will continue to take appropriate action to safeguard minors and bring offenders to justice."

The information was released following a Freedom of Information request.

Adoption focus of event at Merry Hill

PEOPLE can find out more about adoption at a drop-in event in Brierley Hill this evening (Thu).

Adoption in the Black Country and Adoption Focus will be holding the event at the Copthorne Hotel, in Level Street, Merry Hill, from 6pm.

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Taxi driver jailed for sex assault on woman

A TAXI driver has been jailed for sexually assaulting a woman he was dropping home after a night out.

Muhammad Zia kissed the 19-year-old's hand and put his hand on the inside of her thigh. He then grabbed her after she got out of the vehicle. Victim Enya Emerson, of Coseley, has since waived her right to anonymity to urge women who have been in similar situations to step forward and tell police.

Married man Zia, aged 39, of Paxton Road, Stourbridge, was told by Judge Michael Challinor said: "Taxi play an important role in keeping people, especially young women, safe at night. To that extent taxi drivers are trusted. If you breach that trust, you will go to prison as a deterrent and punishment to let others know as taxi drivers they must behave appropriately at all times, or they will be punished."

On October 25, 2014, the victim had been out with friends and took a taxi home in the early hours of the next day. Once outside her address Zia took her hand, kissed it, then placed his hand on the inside of her thigh.

Mr Thomas Spratt, prosecuting, said she was unable to leave the taxi as child locks were on. When Zia opened the door, she walked past him and he grabbed her but she escaped his grip and went into her house.

Mr Thomas Schofield, mitigating, said Zia was previously of 'impeccable character' and had lost his taxi driver licence as a result of the incident.

Jailed for six months, he will notify as a sex offender for seven years.

Libraries stock sensory books

MULTI-SENSORY books for people with learning disabilities are now available to borrow from libraries in Dudley borough.

The 'Bag Books' are designed for people who cannot benefit from typical books. Stories are told interactively through textures, sounds and smells rather than the usual picture and word format.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We also run activities at libraries using the books as well as sessions at special schools or with groups."

Bag Books is a UK charity providing tactile books to people with learning disabilities. For further information call Jackie Bayliss on (01384) 813041 or Sue Harper on 818360.

No takers for the old Labour club

CRADLEY Heath Labour Club, which closed in August after more than 90 years, has failed to sell at auction.

The Grainger Lane venue was offered at Aston Villa Football Club for £150,000 but got no takers.

Museum to close and 275 jobs cut



Closure — museum and art gallery

DUDLEY Museum and Art Gallery will close, up to 275 jobs will be lost and council tax will rise as part of savage cuts revealed by the borough council.

Drastic cuts will be made across its departments, including children's services, while Dudley Zoo and Castle will be stripped of some of its grant, as the authority attempts to save £20 million over the next three years.

The cuts include:
● Dudley Museum and Art Gallery to be turned into housing or offices
● Dudley Zoo and Castle to be

stripped of £200,000 over three years

● Opening hours slashed at customer service centre Dudley Council Plus

● Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley opening hours also cut

● Voluntary groups to be asked to help maintain parks

The measures were announced as part of the council's budget proposals for 2015/16 which are to be finalised in March.

It follows the announcement that 133 full-time jobs could be axed as a result of the plans.

The figure is expected to rise to 275 by 2018/19.

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said the council had been forced to take tough decisions due to a large drop in Government funding. The authority will still have to find another £50m of savings by 2020 even if it passes all the latest ones proposed.

Council tax is set to rise by just under two per cent next year, the maximum permitted without a referendum. Proposed cuts go before the Labour cabinet on Wednesday.

Hospital bosses aim to recruit 60 extra nurses

DOZENS of extra nurses are being recruited to Dudley's hospital trust following a multi-million pound investment.

Bosses are looking to fill 60 positions and will hold two recruitment events to attract applicants later this month.

It is the third major recruitment to be held by Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, in less than 12 months. The new positions will be in a range of departments including surgery, coronary care and oncology as well as in A&E and critical care.

Open days for band 5 and band 6 nurses will take place from 5pm on October 30 and from 9am on October 31. Potential new recruits will be able to meet staff and have a tour of the departments where they could be working.

Chief nurse Dawn Wardell said: "We need more amazing and talented nurses to join our committed staff and are opening our doors to tempt home-grown talent to come and join us."

"Our hospitals are among some of the most technologically advanced in the country, our buildings are modern and purpose-built and we use state-of-the-art equipment. Those joining our trust will benefit from our strong reputation for leading the way in innovation."

Special

She added: "To be a nurse at The Dudley Group is to be part of something special. We are one of the top performing trusts in the country for consistently exceeding the four-hour target, placing us in the top 10 nationally, and we were named as one of the Best Places to Work in the NHS by the Nursing Times and the Health Service Journal."

In June, 55 positions were filled at the hospital trust following a £3.1million investment to boost medical staff numbers. A similar recruitment drive was held in November last year, which attracted more than 40 nursing staff to take permanent positions.

Hospital bosses have previously gone overseas to help fill vacancies with more than 50 nurses taken on from countries including Spain, Portugal and Romania.

The trust has cut more than 250 posts during the past year in a bid to save £7.5 million, but has pledged to protect frontline medical roles.

For more information see www.facebook.com/DudleyGroupNHS/events or turn up on the day.



Shropshire artist Tim Roper with his 15ft tall metal sculpture of a giraffe at Dudley Zoo, one of five of his animal artworks installed at Castle Hill

Tall order for artist to show his metal

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo will be welcomed by animals of a different kind following the installation of five life-sized metal sculptures around the Castle Hill attraction.

They are the work of Shropshire artist Tim Roper who has been crafting the pieces since January.

The works, depicting a giraffe, orangutan, tiger, sea lion and crocodile, have been placed on the approach from the car park.

Mr Roper, 45, from Bridgnorth, became involved in the project after bosses saw his work at an event in Ironbridge. "This was probably around three years ago now. I had made an 8ft sculpture of a giraffe," he said. "I was asked if I could create something similar in life-size for the zoo."

Mr Roper started work on the five pieces at the beginning of the year. He began by sketching the animals and then worked in 3D on a computer before working in metal. The sculptures are made from hundreds of pieces welded together and then galvanised. The 15ft giraffe was the biggest artwork he has done.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roll up for thrill show at Merry Hill

CLOWNS, spectacular high-wire acts and daring motorcycle stunts in a globe — but no animals — will be seen when a popular circus comes back to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Gandey's Human Thrill Circus will run at the centre from tomorrow (Fri) to November 1.

The circus big top will be on the centre's North Street car park for the half-term holiday.

For tickets visit website www.gandeyscircus.com or call 0843 208 0500. There will be evening and matinee performances.

Super fireworks promised at hall

THE largest local authority fireworks display in the country takes place in the grounds of Himley Hall on Saturday, November 7.

Gates open at 4.30pm, the bonfire will be lit at 7.45pm and 'Superheroes, the Sequel' fireworks show starts at 8.30pm. It's £4.50 for children and senior citizens, £9 adults, under fives free. Family tickets are available. Call (01384) 812812.

There is a free bus shuttle service from Dudley, Coseley, Sedgley, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge. Call (01384) 817817.

Top cop selected for West Midlands

THE next chief constable of West Midlands Police has been formally appointed. David Thompson will officially take over as the highest ranking officer of the second largest force in England and Wales in January, following the retirement of Chris Sims.

Mr Thompson is the force's current deputy chief constable and was the only applicant. He was subjected to a selection process by Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, 'youth commissioners' and citizens' panel.

Handel's Messiah to be performed at church

HALESOWEN Choral Society will be performing one of the greatest choral works at its autumn concert.

The choir will sing Handel's Messiah featuring soloists Caroline Palmer, Rebecca Mitchel-Farmer, Mitesh Khatri and Stephen Godward.

The concert will take place on Saturday, November 7, at 7.30pm at St Margaret's Church, Hasbury.

Tickets are £8 and are available by calling 0121 550 7206.

Van stolen off drive

A VAN was stolen from a driveway in a village near Stourbridge.

Thieves took the silver Vauxhall Vivaro, which had power tools inside, from Stourbridge Road in Hagley between 7pm on Sunday and 7am on Monday. Anyone with information can call police on 101.

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FORTY-four per cent of Brits say their ideal home would have its own cinema. Forty per cent are unsure how to pronounce Don Quixote. Twenty per cent say they only drink alcohol on special occasions. One hundred per cent of journalists wonder how we ever managed in the days before surveys.

CALL me a boring old Luddite but I was never convinced that Kindle and suchlike new-fangled inter-beybythingy reading devices were any improvement on old-fashioned ink-and-paper books. So what if they can pluck thousands of great novels out of cyberspace? Realistically, how many books can you read at the same time? And if your dog-eared and well-thumbed Jilly Cooper falls into the hotel swimming pool it's not much of a loss, while a dunked £100 e-reader is a disaster. Sure enough, the latest news is that book sales are picking up and Waterstones says that its sales of Kindle are falling. Sanity reigns.



KATIE Derham is accused of "posing" on Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1). Take the posing out of this show and what's left?

AFTER the recent items on newspaper obituaries, a reader writes: "With regard to obituary notices, I looked again today and was surprised and mildly pleased that my name was not included." That's the spirit.

WE have a solid-fuel boiler at Chateau Rhodes and, because anthracite is expensive, we think long and hard before starting- up the system for the winter. The milder the weather, the later the fire-lighting date. This year I did the deed a couple of days ago, which is at least a fortnight later than most years. I am not sure whether this proves the climate is getting warmer or I am getting meaner.

A SHARP-eared, channel-hopping reader caught two forecasters' references to "perky rain showers" and "fiddly weather." Similar meteorological oddities always welcome.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Jail after arson threat at ex-partner's flat

A JILTED man who threatened to torch his former partner's home has been jailed for two years.

Shaun Lloyd doused himself and the stairs leading to the first floor flat in fuel – and then asked for a lighter.

The drama came just hours after police had ordered the 28-year-old not to go to the address where he had previously tried to stab a member of the family who was trying to stop him getting inside.

The couple had broken up after four years together during which time they had two children, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Lloyd was drunk when he went to his ex-partner's home in Sky Walk, Cradley Heath, and slapped her father across the face on April 3. He butted and punched a door, causing £100 damage, before taking a knife from a kitchen drawer and waving it around.

Mr John Evans, prosecuting, said added: "He was screaming and shouting."

The defendant left the flat and poked the knife blade through a crack in the front door as a member of the family tried to shut it in his face.

Police arrived shortly after 3am, arrested Lloyd and later released him on bail on condition he stayed away from the address. But hours later he arrived back at the flat holding a can of fuel.

Mr Evans said: "He got in

through the unlocked front door, poured petrol over his head, down the stairs and on the walls. He then left, pouring more petrol as he went before asking for a lighter."

Lloyd later told police he had not intended to carry out his threat to burn the place down and was merely trying to 'get the attention' of his former partner.

Mr Ben Williams, defending, said: "It must have been terrifying for her but this was desperate behaviour. He was taking the break up in their relationship very badly and behaving in an utterly inappropriate way. The fact that he thought he had to go to these lengths to attract her attention shows how desperate he was. Alcohol also played its part."

Lloyd from Bolton Square, West Bromwich, admitted affray, assault, criminal damage and threatening to damage property. Judge Mark Eades told him: "Your behaviour towards your former partner was appalling."

by John Scott

Urban climber aims to inspire



Death-defying climber Alain Robert is pictured in action

A REAL life superhero who has scaled 145 of the world's tallest buildings will be visiting the Black Country next month to talk about his death-defying feats.

Dubbed 'Spider-Man', Frenchman Alain Robert has also climbed cliffs, mountains and gorges without any ropes or safety equipment. His climb of the world's tallest building, the 2,717 feet tall Burj Khalifa in Dubai, was global front page news in 2011.

Mr Robert, aged 53, is well known for attempting amazing climbs with his bare hands – despite suffering from vertigo, epilepsy and being medically assessed as disabled.

He will be meetings fans at the Sadler's Brewhouse on Station Road, Lye, on November 9, in an event considered a 'massive coup' by sales director Ian King.

Alain suffered a major fall in 1982, broke several bones and was in a coma for five days. He was told he would never climb again. Since then he has undertaken more than 70 climbs including the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building and Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. Tickets are £25, call 0870 3207000.

Attacks on medics are getting even worse

MORE than 600 West Midlands Ambulance staff have been attacked on the job in the past three years – and the problem is getting worse.

During the 2012/13 financial year, 175 staff were physically assaulted on the job, jumping to 207 the following year, with 231 logging assaults during the 2014/15 year.

Just last week an advanced paramedic responding to a 999 call had fireworks thrown at his vehicle, meaning he was off the road and unable to do his job for an hour, and another ambulance crew had eggs thrown at them as four yobs attempted to get in to the cab of the vehicle in Birmingham.

Incidents like this can be terrifying for the staff involved and can result in serious injuries, as well as tying up vital emergency resources.

Punched

A list of physical attacks on staff provided by West Midlands Ambulance Service ranges from being spat on, grabbed, punched, scratched and kicked, to numerous accounts of inappropriate sexual contact and having items thrown at them, including shoes, equipment and even a brick.

While many list the cause as mental health, clinical, or not known, the majority are attributed to the use of alcohol or drugs.

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College takes on 40 new staff members

HALESOWEN College has taken on 40 new staff.

They have joined the college to teach a range of subjects including media, photography, drama, science, English and maths.

College principal Keith Bate said: "I am delighted to welcome so many new staff to Halesowen.

"The college is constantly improving with new state-of-the-art facilities, investment and more university level courses and it is great that all these new members of staff can be a part of it.

"In times of reducing public finance the college is building on its strength as being the leading provider of education and training to further enhance opportunities for local people with new highly qualified and professional staff joining the college ranks."

Meanwhile, building work recently started on a £3 million performing arts centre at Halesowen College, due to open next September.

The centre will provide accommodation for rehearsals and performances of music, drama and dance.

The scheme is the final phase of Halesowen's campus developments.

Greswolde Construction is carrying out the work and it is expected the centre at the heart of the Whittingham campus will be handed over for use in the next academic year.

The X Factor Live Tour is returning to Brum

THE X Factor Live Tour returns to Birmingham next year.

Contestants from this year's series will take to the stage at the Genting Arena on February 27.

There will be two performances on February 27,an afternoon matinee and evening show.

Tickets are priced from £19.50 and go on sale from 9am tomorrow (Fri) on from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8222 (charged).

Bosses rule out extra free hospital parking due to cost

Praise be to those who helped after fire



Rev Leon Evans in the temporary building where services are held after the Zion Christian Centre was damaged by fire. A CHURCH pastor has thanked the 'kind and generous' community that has donated thousands of pounds to a fire-hit centre.

Rev Leon Evans, from the Zion Christian Centre in Halesowen, said the reaction of people since the blaze over a month ago has been staggering.

Around £20,000 has been donated to help the Little Cornbow Church rebuild after dozens of firefighters tackled a blaze at the church for more than three hours in the early hours of August 30.

At its height there were eight teams of firefighters on the scene. There was 'extensive damage' to at least half of the auditorium and smoke damage to the rest of the building.

Rev Evans, who has been the church's pastor for the past 15 years, said everyone at the church had been surprised by the amount that has been donated.

"People have been so kind and generous and the money will help us with the things that aren't covered by insurance," he said.

"We're very much surprised but delighted by the amount, which has come from individuals, people connected with the church and other organisations. The strength of the church and the wider community has really shone through and the way people have pulled together has been great. It's really been overwhelming."

The congregation have been attending services at a neighbouring building owned by the church. The former warehouse has been refurbished to welcome 500 worshippers.

FREE 30-minute parking for patients and visitors to Sandwell Hospital has been ruled out by bosses.

Managers at the hospital said it would cost them £500,000 a year to introduce such a measure and that would risk eating into patient care.

Drivers currently get 15 minutes free but Sandwell Council asked for an extension after learning that Telford's Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury hospitals offer 30 minutes at no charge.

Councillor Bob Lloyd, of the council's health scrutiny board, said: "They have been able to do it so why can't we? It is a big concern to people.

"Their rationale is that they only charge what it costs to provide and maintain the car park. We don't want to remove money from patient care."

Chairman of the scrutiny board, Councillor Paul Sanders, said he was going to press hospital bosses for more answers.

Contentious

The cost of hospital parking has proved to be a contentious issue as many believe patients and visitors are being made to pay too much.

It currently costs £2.60 to park for an hour at Sandwell Hospital, £3.60 for two hours, £4.10 for three hours and £4.60 for four hours. A 24-hour stay costs £5.10.

A report from Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell General, said: "The cost to offer this additional 15 minutes free parking at SWBH would be cost prohibitive and is not currently being considered. There are also no proposals to apply the tariff from Shrewsbury and Telford at SWBH.

"The infrastructure, car parking and security arrangements are very different and the impact of the proposal would be a deficit of circa £500,000 per annum."

Marshals are needed help with parade

AN APPEAL has been launched for extra marshals to help Blackheath Royal British Legion ensure its Remembrance Parade runs smoothly.

The parade will take place on Sunday, November 8, from Old Hill to the Powke Lane Crematorium and Cemetery in Rowley Regis.

More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the event and marshals are needed to ensure the parade goes ahead as planned with no hiccups.

Branch secretary Mark Spilsbury said: "It's a bigger march this year and we think more people will be coming to it.

"We also think there will be more people at the crematorium and so we need more people to help out as marshals to keep the route clear. We're looking for any ex-service personnel or anyone with marshalling experience who can help to get in touch."

Anyone who wants to offer help is asked to call Mr Spilsbury on 07950 948013.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Square is real retail therapy to help town

THERE hasn't been much in the way of cheer for our beleaguered town centres over the past few years, but at last there is something to shout about.

The number of visitors to West Bromwich's New Square shopping centre has rocketed by 25 per cent over the past year, increasing from an already impressive 4.1 million in 2015 to 5.5 million in 2015. The growth in visitor numbers to West Bromwich will inevitably mean a decline in shoppers somewhere else. However in these days where our high streets have been decimated by the shift towards online shopping and these ghastly out-of-town shopping centres, isn't it heartening to see people returning to a once struggling town centre?

Let nobody forget just how moribund West Bromwich was just five years ago. Row after row of empty shop units, take-aways and betting shops. And of course, the laughable Public arts complex.

Of course, there are still many empty and under-used buildings in West Bromwich, but it would be churlish to deny that this is now a town which has turned the corner after years in the doldrums.

And planners in neighbouring towns would do well to look at West Bromwich as a shining example of what can be done when the powers-that-be ask and listen to what both the public and business want, and bend over backwards to give it to them. Big, modern shop units rather than trendy highbrow arts projects, plentiful car parking right outside the shops rather than half-baked pedestrianisation schemes, and big-name retailers rather than pie-in-the-sky dreaming about heritage and tourism.

ONE question though. Since West Bromwich seems to now be doing reasonably well, whatever does Sandwell Council stand to be gained by lumping itself in with this ridiculous joint authority?

Already people are starting to refer to Birmingham and its "city region", before final approval has even been ratified. Councillors promise there will be no loss of identity, but many of them are the same people who 10 years ago were clinging to a ludicrous vision that by the year 2030 The Public would blaze a trail across the land for a renaissance based on the arts, and that Dudley would become a national standard-bearer for town-centre regeneration.

WITH the General Election out of the way, I think the pollsters at Yougov must be a bit short of work to keep them going. One of their latest studies reveals that Peroni is perceived as the most upmarket lager on the market, with Carling bumping along the bottom.

Upmarket? Lager? Might as well have carried out a survey to find the world's slimmest sumo wrestler.



The museum brings the Black Country's past back to life



One in and one out - Lowell Williams, left, replaces John Hughes



Cillian Murphy filming hit TV drama series Peaky Blinders

Preserving the past has a bright future

ROBERT COX meets the new Chairman of the Black Country Living Museum Trustees, college boss Lowell Williams

THE 'feeling of steam, dirt and grime in your face' - that's what the Black Country means to the man taking over one of its most popular attractions.

Lowell Williams has guided Dudley College through some of the biggest changes in its history. And now he has set his sights on the Black Country Living Museum.

Top of his agenda is transforming the Tipton Road site into more of a 'complete experience' that throws visitors back into a different era.

The Dudley College principal has been on the board of trustees at the Black Country Living Museum for 18 months and is now stepping up to replace John Hughes as chairman.

While respecting the progress made under his predecessor, who has been in the role since 2006, Mr Williams has set his sights on expanding the reach of the iconic site.

Exciting

Earlier this year the museum's tramway reopened for business after 18 months out of action.

The museum has also created a new entrance to welcome the 60,000 school children who visit the attraction every year, as well as to help cut queues.

The new boss says it is a transformational and exciting phase in the museum's history.

He adds: "The trams are up and running. They have done hundreds of miles over the summer and everyone loves them."

"There is a steam forge hammer which is currently being restored for the canal arm. It will be the only one in the Black Country."

"More importantly we are working on the masterplan for the site. The site is good but there are opportunities to make it better."



Outgoing chairman John Hughes (left) hands over at the Tipton Road attraction to Lowell Williams

The masterplan is intended to be a 10-year forward plan to preserve the museum's future.

At Mr Hughes' final meeting as chair, trustees discussed how they could 'reimagine' the site to give visitors a more authentic experience.

The museum is now a major partner of Arts Council England which means it can attract greater funding - hence the increased ambition.

It comes as the museum was turned into a film set last week, as BBC drama Peaky Blinders, starring Cillian Murphy, was shot there.

Mr Williams says the extra exposure will only improve the museum's reputation. He adds: "The site has been put together by an acquisition of assets to make our collection. Weaved through that is the story of the industrial heritage of the Black Country."

"The board think it could be an even more

immersive experience when people come and visit. It can give an even stronger impression of 'black by day and red by night.'

"I think we can bring together some of our assets so they are better connected and get that feeling of steam, dirt and grime so it is really in your face as you go through." The new chairman has set his sights of linking up further with Dudley Canal Trust and Dudley Zoo and also wants to build on the relationship with his primary employer.

"The museum offers my students great opportunities," he says. "We work on the museum's marketing and some of our students take part in our evening performances here."

"Our engineering students work on the design on some of the parts required for the vehicles here which you can no longer buy."

"We can build on the great relationship and give back something after all they have given to us."

"It is great to be taking over as chair of the trustees as the museum is on the up, and that applies to every indicator."

"Visitor numbers are 13 per cent up. Our finances, which are independent and do not rely on public handouts, are strong."

"But probably more important is the museum is one year into a strategic plan. We are finishing the appraisal for further development and there are a number of very big projects about to get off the ground."

Building

As for outgoing chair John Hughes, he is certain Mr Williams can take the attraction onto greater things despite the success under his leadership.

He says: "It has been a very exciting and rewarding time and I believe the museum has developed considerably."

"At the start of my period as chair we were coming to the end of a big building programme and in my time we have built the worker's institute, and the whole of this 1930s street which has got the world-famous fish and chip shop, as well as three others."

"Later there was a period of difficult trading but since then we have been able to grow our numbers and the museum is currently going to have incredible numbers this year."

"I certainly feel we are on the up."

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The Albion team which lined up for the clash, their first cup final appearance



The 1886 line-ups as featured in the match programme



King George V presents the cup to the Tottenham captain in 1921



The Wolves v Tottenham final tie programme

Rare cup memorabilia to go under hammer

A PAIR of the most rare and valuable Black Country football programmes go under the hammer later this month.

The monumental 1886 FA Cup final programme between West Bromwich Albion and Blackburn Rovers is made up of just a single sheet, featuring the team line-ups and an advertisement on the back.

It is one of the rarest pieces of football memorabilia and is particularly significant as it was Albion's first ever appearance at an FA Cup final.

The programme was worth two old pennies at the time and has been described as 'extremely scarce'. It will go up for sale at Graham Budd Auctions in a 'Sporting Memorabilia' auction in London on October 27.

The match was played at the Kennington Oval, now the Test-playing home of Surrey County Cricket Club, to a crowd of 15,000 on April 3. Albion boasted four England internationals in

MEMORY LANE

By David Callaghan

their team, with goalkeeper Bob Roberts, midfielder Charlie Perry, forward George Woodhall and captain Jem Bayliss. It was the first of West Brom's 10 FA Cup final appearances and was the first time a Midlands club had reached the final.

Auctioneer Graham Budd said: "Any programmes of this nature, pre-First World War are exceptionally rare. This programme was worth only two old pennies in 1886, but we expect a number of collectors to show a very keen interest as it is a very scarce piece of memorabilia."

"I imagine we'd be looking in the region of £20,000 to £25,000 for it."

The match finished 0-0, with one of the rules at the time being both teams needed to agree for extra time to take place. Albion were keen to continue but Blackburn Rovers refused, forcing a replay a

week later at Derbyshire County Cricket Club's Racecourse Ground.

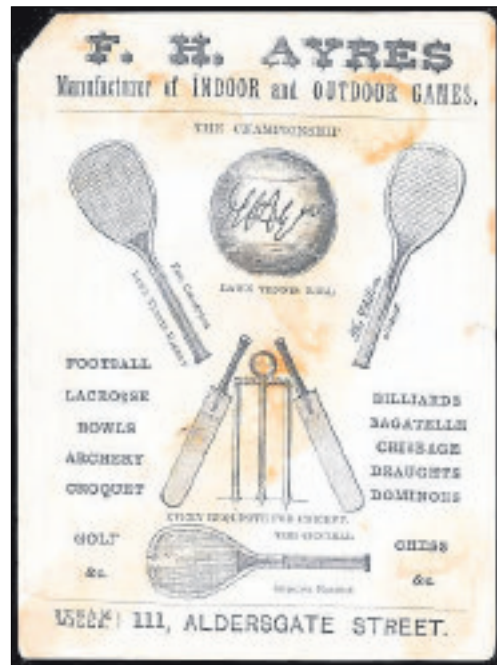
The replay was noteworthy as it was the first time an FA Cup final had been played outside of London and both the final and replay being refereed by Major Francis Marindin.

Blackburn went on to beat Albion 2-0, making it their third successive FA Cup final victory.

At the same auction there will also be a 1921 Wolves v Tottenham Hotspur FA Cup final programme, which was played at Stamford Bridge. It originally cost 6d, which was sixpence, or three pence in modern money and was produced as it was one of the last finals played before the competition moved to Wembley in 1923.

Wolves were led by their first club manager, Jack Addenbrooke, but went down 1-0 to a single Jimmy Dimmock goal. The cup was presented by King George V.

Mr Budd believes the programme will fetch between '£1,000 and £1,500.'



The back of the 1886 Albion cup final programme

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Rachel shed 10st for the sake of her son

A SUPER-SLIMMER is celebrating after shedding an incredible 10 stone – more than half her previous body weight.

Rachel Rose is delighted after shrinking from 18st 12lb to 8st 12lb.

The 39-year-old's decision to lose weight was inspired by her five-year-old son Evan, and the desire to see him grow up, amid warnings her size would shorten her life.

Mrs Rose, of Crowther Gardens, Halesowen, admits she was 'morbidly obese' before slimming down.

The local Weight Watchers leader said: "My weight loss was pretty epic, it was a long drawn-out battle. I've always been big and so that was a way of life for me.

"But when Evan came along the pregnancy was high-risk and it made me realise my weight was affecting other people.

Parent

"When you're a parent you always put your children first and it was suddenly so important that I could keep up with him. I wanted to be able to see him grow up and not miss anything."

Mrs Rose said she achieved her goal by splitting the process into smaller chunks of achievement and combining a new diet with more exercise.

She said: "I joined Weight Watchers in October 2013 and then about four or five months afterwards I'd lost a couple of stone, but realised I needed to do some exercise to get my body to come with me.

"I worked out an exercise plan but it was quite shocking when I started how poor my fitness was. "After a while I could feel myself getting fitter and getting lighter and that kept pushing me along.

To keep herself in shape, Mrs Rose now does nine classes a week in the



Super-slimmer Rachel Rose seen before her amazing weight loss

gym. "It's a complete lifestyle change," she explained.

"I would just slow down constantly whenever I walked anywhere. That was pretty embarrassing. Since I lost the weight I've done things like Race for Life which I couldn't have ever imagined doing before."

As a Weight Watchers leader, Mrs Rose is a role model for other women hoping to lose weight.

"Now I'm responsible for about 100



Slimline Rachel after losing 10 stone, more than half her former body weight

people going through the process I did," she said.

Now Mrs Rose wants to raise £4,200 to pay for surgery to remove excess skin after being turned down for NHS-funded surgery. To donate towards her efforts, email r.rosey.29@hotmail.co.uk

"When I was turned down by the NHS that was a very dark moment. But it's given me a target again, which is good," she added.

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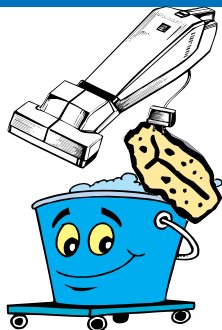
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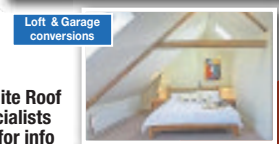
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Every ticket includes a seat in the ALCATEL ONETOUCH Fashion Theatre. Head stylist Karl Willett will bring together the very best in high-street and designer brands to the show.

Charli XCX, Rae Morris and Ella Eyre will perform live, while Radio 1 presenters Alice Levine and Gemma Cairney host the Fashion Theatre stage. For tickets visit clothesshow.com.



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The Chronicle is offering nine lucky readers and their 'plus one' the chance to attend the opening day (Friday December 4).

To stand a chance of winning, just answer this simple question. Which Radio 1 presenter will be hosting the Fashion Theatre stage?

Send your answers to: Clothes Show, Chronicle series, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date is October 29.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal School's proposal for a Free School

The proposal for the new Free School at The Royal School Wolverhampton from September 2016 has now progressed to the pre-opening phase and is undertaking a public consultation period from 19 October, 2015, to 4 December, 2015.

The consultation document outlining the proposal can be read at www.theroyalschool.co.uk

There is also a short questionnaire which you are invited to download, complete and return to the school. Printed versions of the consultation document and questionnaire can be obtained by calling the school reception on 01902 341230.

All responses need to be submitted before 4 December, 2015.

To find out more about our Free School proposal you are invited to attend our consultation evening on 12 November, 2015, 7.30-8.30pm at The Royal School, Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV3 0EG.

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Police cuts, priorities and propaganda

DON'T you just love some of the comments made by spokespersons for the police: 'Our priorities are and always will be the public', 'our level of service will not affect the public', 'police response will remain the same', 'even with the cuts, recorded crime is down'.

It's very strange that police stations are closing and/or having

closing times attached to them. We are told 28 police buildings are to be sold off and the officers moved out to other locations.

But none of this will affect the public. How can this be? Police numbers reduced, stations closed, buildings sold, yet we are constantly informed we will not see any changes.

This message is propaganda. So with all these closures Black Country towns will have in all practicality no police in situ and will have to be imported from where? In an emer-

gency will they be beamed in? However, don't worry, we won't see front line policing affected!

I wonder with all these cuts who the Government wish to place the handcuffs on, the criminals or the police?

It's all very strange but when they hold their conference, each and every year, the police coverage is always very well covered. No sign of cuts there, is there?

Again the general public are being taken for fools.

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

Not happy over smelly nappies

NOW we have to buy a carrier bag I will be leaving behind my dog's poo.

I've got four dogs and used the bags to get their poo up. You will find a lot of people will do the same.

There should be an extra charge on baby's nappies. They are everywhere. On the canal last week four were thrown in the cut, even at the back of my church at St Thomas, Stourbridge.

My mother has seen them on the bus when she's taken a trip to Birmingham. People should be ashamed of themselves leaving smelly nappies around.

I've had four children and even my grandchildren are in the same white terry toweling nappies.

Disposable nappies cause a lot of problems in later life, like bandy legs. Having terry toweling nappies can keep it at bay.

If you can't afford terry nappies you should not have children.

E WARD-DAVIES
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Midlands, Mercia or Middle Earth?

FOLLOWING the question of devolving power to local areas and the move by West Midlands authorities to be called a combined authority, I couldn't help wondering if it would be better to expand our view and combine both East Midlands and West Midlands.

Perhaps we could call such an authority Central England, but I'm sure that would not be acceptable by the Londonites as it sounds too grand.

Given that most inner city areas are predominately Labour maybe we could call it Left of Centre England. No, that would show too much of a political bias.

We now have the shire counties proposing the name Mercia. I have to say I couldn't help thinking that Middle Earth might be more appropriate. It's naughty of me to think that way, it's a bad habit of mine, my apologies to JRR.

Now if we take the idea that bigger is better maybe we should look at the idea of combining the West Midlands Combined Authority with the Northern powerhouse of Greater Manchester and a few others across the country then we would really have a power base and I know the perfect name for it - England.

R HILLMAN
Wolverhampton

Take a look at bosses of the NHS

THE recently revealed gigantic deficit in the NHS begs the question, what are we the British taxpayers paying thousands of chief executives, managers, under managers and their numerous assistants, hundreds of thousands of pounds a year for? Why isn't the Government asking the same question?

When the NHS is effectively running at a loss; when previously top rated hospitals are now being placed in special measures; and when we continue to hear numerous stories of poor treatment and downright neglect - as illustrated by the story of a lady in Nottinghamshire who would rather 'die at home' than be treated in the hospital where she was left with an open wound for hours, ignored by staff then verbally abused - surely it shows that many are not doing the job for which they are being grossly overpaid!

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New fair to sell festive craft gifts

A UNIQUE Christmas craft fair is coming to Cradley Heath for the first time this winter.

On Saturday, November 7, the Bubbles & Bibby's Craft Emporium will be setting up shop in Community Link on Cradley High Street from 10am to 3pm.

Designer and maker Bibby Jackson said: "It promises to be a great event giving shoppers the opportunity to buy unique hand-made Christmas gifts."

Author

Alison Boynton, owner of Handmade by Auntie Bubbles, added: "There will be a huge range of gifts and accessories including jewellery, knitted items, cushions, bunting, candles and cards. We are also really excited to welcome, Julian Roderick, a local children's author, who will be signing his books."

Looking at homes land

TWENTY flats and two new houses could soon be built in Cradley Heath.

Sandwell Council planners are set to visit the proposed site on land adjacent to Compton Grange, in St Anne's Road.

In a report to yesterday's planning meeting (Wed), officers recommend councillors see the site for themselves before the scheme is considered for the homes on a site near to Cradley Bypass at its junction with St Anne's Road.

Dog will be destroyed after eight-year-old girl savaged

AN eight-year-old girl was savaged by a dog after it ran out of its garden and bit her leg, stomach and wrist.

A court heard the Staffordshire Bull Terrier became 'aggravated' by the noise of children playing.

Owner, Paula Ann Taylor, opened her garden gate to ask children not to tease the dog and even offered to let them stroke the animal but it ran out and attacked the child.

By Clare Butler

The dog, Sapphire, has been ordered to be destroyed by Dudley Magistrates Court — despite letters of support for the owner.

The girl was playing with friends in an alley beside Taylor's house in Abbey Road, Cradley Heath, when the dog attacked her. Taylor, 49, was found guilty of owning and being in charge of a dog dangerously out of control causing injury.

She was given a one month community order with a curfew from 7am to 7pm and ordered to pay £1,449 including court costs, compensation and kennel fees. She had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "The dog was loose in the back garden and could be heard barking. Ms Taylor went to check it was okay and could hear children playing in the alleyway near her house and this aggravated the dog."

"Ms Taylor opened the

gate and asked the children not to tease the dog but said that they could stroke it if they wanted to. The children refused but the dog managed to break free, chase and bite the child."

Taylor had owned the former rescue dog for 16 months. Mr Andrew Kerry, defending, said: "It is clear that Ms Taylor wishes she had never opened the gate but in order for her to see into the alleyway she had to, and the dog broke free. She is horrified at the thought of Sapphire being destroyed. The dog has previously been well behaved."

Chairman of the bench, Claire Challinor, said: "We have heard and read letters of support of not destroying Sapphire but she does represent a danger and we do order the destruction of her, as there is a need to ensure the public are protected."



Chairman of the friends group Tim Haskey, vice-chair Stephanie Peacock and treasurer Jim Mumford outside the Haden Cross Inn

Site visit is urged over decision

MORE than 500 people have signed a petition against plans to build a supermarket on land next to a popular Cradley Heath pub.

New River Retail wants permission to demolish a garage beside the Haden Cross Inn, in Halesowen Road, and build a shop with parking. Sandwell Council's planning committee has been recommended by officers to visit the site before the scheme comes before members for discussion later this year.

A report to the committee, which was meeting yesterday (Wed), states the development is already 'generating considerable public interest' and the pub has been designated an asset of community value. The pub's supporters have a petition with more than 500 signatures backing the inn.

Friends of Haden Cross chairman Tim Haskey said: "We remain committed to protecting the whole site."

Pavement car parking is banned

MOTORISTS will be banned from parking on pavements and grass verges on a street in Cradley.

Dudley Council will introduce the measure on a section of Netherend Lane, near its junction with Apperley Way, following a string of complaints from residents who say parked cars clog up the pavement.

Objections had been raised from residents living nearby who feared it would just result in cars being parked on smaller side streets, as well as a business which has concerns the move could hit trade.

The scheme, which will cost £2,500 to bring into force, has now been approved by Councillor Hilary Bills, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services 'due to continued concerns for safety'.

Bid to convert a warehouse

A PLAN to convert a disused warehouse into housing has been backed by planning officers despite objections from people living nearby.

Sandwell councillors have been advised to approve an application to convert the building in Pennant Road, Cradley Heath. The proposal submitted by Krundil Developments is to create a home with 21 rooms. But eight objections have been lodged by neighbours to the site.

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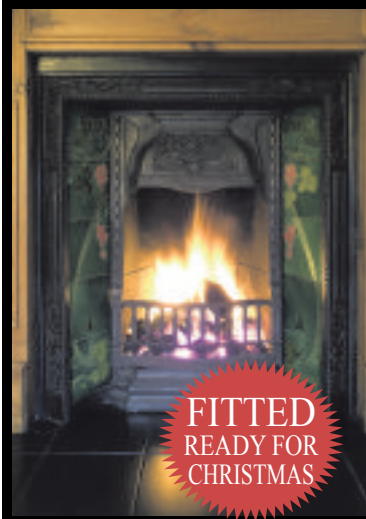
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Bikers rally around for big charity ride

HUNDREDS of bikers rallied together to take part in a charity ride and show their support for a young boy with cancer.

Schoolboy Kian Williams, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in May, travelled in the convoy on a trike.

And there was an extra treat for Kian at the end – a flight in a plane. Organiser Richard Clarke had won the flight in an auction and decided to donate it. He heard about Kian and set about planning the ride for Birmingham Children's Hospital which cared for the 12-year-old during his chemotherapy.

The ride started at the Streetbike

shop in Halesowen and headed to Wellesbourne Airfield in Warwickshire for Kian's flight over the West Midlands.

Kian's mum Wendy, of Dingle Road, Wombourne, said: "We knew something was going to happen but didn't think it was going to be this big. It's amazing to have 200 motorbikes here, we couldn't believe it. We didn't know any of these people and they didn't know Kian, but they've all spent their own time doing this for him."

Richard, of Evolution Riders, said: "Someone told me about Kian and said he loved motorbikes and would love to go in a plane."



A wheely good time – charity bike ride organiser Richard Clarke with 12-year-old Kian Williams

Young drug dealer is given second chance

A YOUNG drug dealer found with cannabis has been given a second chance by a judge.

Luke Coni, aged 20, was caught with 648 grams of cannabis when police raided his home in Bridge Street, Coseley, on May 27. Along with the cannabis, a set of scales and £80 cash was found in a shed, and a further £1,570 cash was found in the house.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Michael Chalinor told Coni, now of Shrewsbury Fields, Shifnal, that he had made a very serious mistake in making money out of street dealing cannabis. He said: "You now realise how serious it is to engage in drug trafficking, and there are a lot of consequences for you."

Coni pleaded guilty to possession of a Class B drug with intent to supply, and was sentenced to eight months' detention, suspended for 18 months, a rehabilitation activity requirement and 160 hours of unpaid work.

Brave Ami shaves head for relatives with cancer

A BRAVE mother-of-three who had both legs amputated has had her head shaved for cancer charities.

Ami Smith, aged 28, decided on the move after her grandfather Glyn Nicholls, 57, was diagnosed with throat and gullet cancer. This blow came after his older sister Jane had also found she had cancer.

Mrs Smith from Wood Cross, Coseley, who had legs amputated as a result of thrombosis in 2007 and 2010, explained: "I wanted to do something to help research into cancer and the care of those who are affected by it. "My hair was halfway down my back and having it cut off was the only way I could think of raising money.



Wheelchair user Ami Smith before her charity head shave

"I could not do a sponsored walk or anything like that because I have no artificial legs because of complications with my condition."

She continued: "I am surprised by the outcome. I have never had a crew cut before, it feels alright. I was a bit worried about how I would look, but the end result is nowhere near as bad as I feared. I am not making a big issue about it because my hair will grow back."

Mr Nicholls, of St Giles Road, Willenhall, started the haircut, which is set to raise more than £400. The haircut was finished by her husband Jordan. He confessed: "It was a bit of a shock after seeing her with long hair for so long but I love her with or without hair."

"I am very proud of her. Not many people would be able to worry about the plight of others if they had the sort of problems Ami has had to deal with."

Her father Neil Humphries, of Alamein Road, Portobello, said: "She is a remarkable girl. She lost her first leg to thrombosis and then three years later had the left leg amputated as well. She had to undergo five operations but never lost her love of life and is constantly thinking of other people."

Anybody wishing to donate can do so via www.bravetheshave.org.uk by entering the name Ami Smith.

Iconic structures safe

AN iconic animal closure at Dudley Zoo is no longer 'at risk' according to a heritage watchdog — following the completion of £1 million improvement works.

Dudley Zoo's bear ravine and kiosk, built in the 1930s, were deemed under threat by Heritage England back in 2009.

But after masonry repair work and the hiring of two workers to look after the enclosure, which was home to bears 30 years ago, it has been removed from the Historic England At Risk register.

While work was being carried out, engineers discovered the names of bears formerly housed at the building still painted over their den doors, which bosses decided to keep.

The ravine, built by Berthold Lubetkin and is Tecton architectural practice, is considered a prime example of modernist architecture and has been restored to replicate how it would have looked when originally built.

It is one of the zoo's collection of Tecton buildings, with 12 listed structures around the Castle Hill site which were intended for both animal and visitor use.

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Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430)

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Eight days from £739

The Sorrento peninsula and Bay of Naples form one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, rich in history, boasting breathtaking scenery and of course, first class cuisine.

On this holiday the choice of hotels are offered in and around the town of Sorrento and excursions include a boat trip to the beautiful island of Capri, home to the famous Blue Grotto; the city of Pompeii, whose state of preservation is astonishing; a visit to the still-active volcano of Vesuvius, and a visit to Naples, home to the Archaeological Museum that houses some of the finest finds from the nearby excavations.

The Amalfi coastline offers stunning views and a full day is spent driving the meandering roads, admiring the exclusive resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi and then Ravello, perched in its breathtaking location boasting delightful small cafes and the Villa Rufolo, a charming collection of medieval buildings.

Lake Como, St Moritz and the Bernina Express

Eight days from £829

A choice of lake-side hotels make the perfect base for this wonderful varied tour, which explores Lake Como, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, plus other stunning icons of northern Italy and Switzerland.

Take a boat trip and tour to the 18th century Balbianello, one of the finest villas surrounding Lake Como and cruise to the elegant resort of Bellagio, often described as the most beautiful town in Italy.

Boarding the famous Bernina Express at Tirano, the remarkable journey travels through an amazing sequence of spirals, loops and tunnels to the summit at Ospizio Bernina in Switzerland, then descends to the chic resort of St Moritz for a spot of shopping before heading back through more stunning scenery, crossing the border again, to Italy.

A full day is spent at Bergamo with a guided tour, whilst at Lake Maggiore there is chance to enjoy some free time in its most attractive town, Stresa.

Travelling back to Switzerland, Lugano is an eclectic mix of traditional Swiss values and the more laid-back Latin influences from across the border. Explore the cafe-lined main square, the myriad of twisting lanes of the old town or discover the dense network of shops.

Lake Garda, Venice and Verona

Eight days from £599

Lake Garda is an area of outstanding natural beauty and on this holiday there is a selection of hotels to choose from in either Malcesine or Riva del Garda, both of which are beautifully surrounded by lofty peaks and situated at the more scenic north end of the lake.

Tour around the lake, passing through some typically Italian villages complete with tiny harbours and snow-capped mountains. Whilst a tour to the Dolomite Mountains gives the opportunity to experience the spectacular alpine scenery.

Venice is unique and caught in a time warp. Culturally rich as any city can be, see many of the countless places of interest on a guided tour, including St Mark's Square and its Basilica, the Campanile and Doge's Palace — home to the most powerful man in Venice. A trip on a gondola is also a must in this stunning and fascinating city (payable locally).

Discover the hidden gems of medieval Verona, on a guided walking tour, then explore the typical Italian shops and market place here, or maybe enjoy the violinists serenading customers at the numerous pavement cafes.

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Homecoming gig rescued after hitches

Swim Deep, 02 Institute, B'ham AS chaotic as it was sometimes thrilling, this homecoming gig by Birmingham band Swim Deep weeks after the release of their radical new album Mothers was hit by technical hitches and muddy sound.

There was a lively opening with the 80s style pop explosion that is recent single Namaste and Francisco from their 2013 debut album Where The Heaven Are We, but the momentum

was interrupted by a series of problems with Cavan McCarthy's bass.

Despite roadies fiddling with various wires and plugs, they never really got the sound spot-on and lead singer Austin Williams was for much of the gig drowned out by backing vocals.

But the B-town dreamy shoegazers turned psychedelic rock groovers forged ahead, all snags forgiven when they hit the fans with a double whammy of Honey and Brummie

anthem King City, both off the first album. The fans seemed less sure about the new songs from the genre-hopping, ambitious Mothers but warmed to the relentless psych-disco epic Fueiho Boogie.

The encore featuring old favourite She Changes The Weather and the new album's two most instantly appealing songs Laniakea and To My Brother ensured that the night was rescued.
Leon Burakowski

Potts puts on his first show in city

Paul Potts Grand Theatre, W'ton

IF you saw Paul Potts win the first Britain's Got Talent eight years ago then you could well have had a feeling of deja vu at the Grand.

His understated entrance saw him wearing what looked like the same dishevelled suit. Potts is all about the voice and he does have a good one. His repertoire for his first ever visit to the city consisted of classical pieces as well as operas versions of contemporary songs from songwriters and bands such as Sting, Andrew Lloyd Webber, The Foo Fighters and REM.

The Bristol-born tenor is still very unassuming even after so many years of touring. He hasn't developed a showbiz chip on his shoulder and even carried his own mic offstage when required, qualities which have endeared him to the nation. He doesn't look at ease on stage but his singing seems to take him into his own world. Potts gave a flawless performance. You have to give it to the lad, he has done good.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS



Craig Revel-Horwood, Jonny Fines and Djalenga Scott in Annie at Birmingham Hippodrome

Revel-Horwood in drag but Annie is Strictly star of the show

Annie, Birmingham Hippodrome SOME performers are just born to play the baddie. There is no doubt that Strictly Come Dancing's resident wicked witch, Craig Revel-Horwood, is one of them.

Appearing as the waspish Miss Hannigan in the current UK tour of Nikolai Foster's wonderfully directed version of Annie at Birmingham Hippodrome, there is more than a glimpse of the hardest man in the world to please. I would love to give him a 10 because he was simply A-MAZ-ING, for me it was more of an average seven.

Naturally there is a hint of a comedy drag in his performance and he does a reasonable

job of transforming himself into drunken man-eater Miss Hannigan, delivering his solo numbers with aplomb but his characterisation is a little confused.

Sophia Pettit shares the title role. She blew the adult performances off stage. The musical's best known song Tomorrow brought a tear to the eye and cheers throughout the theatre. She is one to watch.

Jonny Fines and Djalenga Scott, as Rooster and Lily, nail the showstopper Easy Street, showing off superb dance skills and comic timing. They were aided and abetted by Mr RH — he has still got it! The show runs until October 31.
Alison Norton

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One in six expectant mothers smoking during pregnancy

Musical new role for TV soap queen

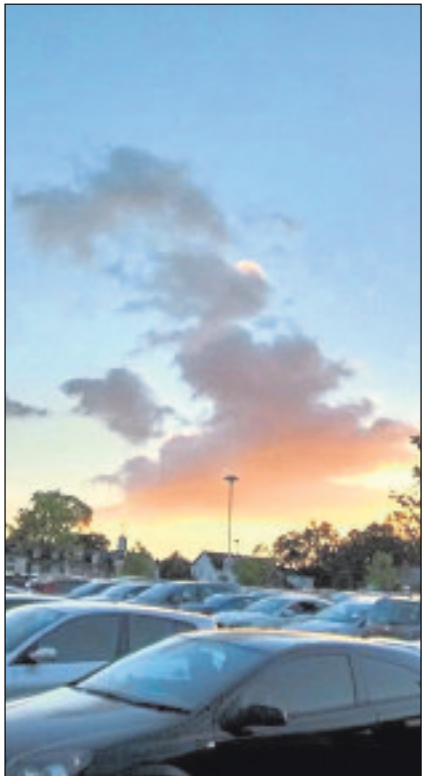
SOAP queen Michelle Collins, who has appeared in both Coronation Street and EastEnders, will play the child-loathing Baroness Bomburst when a revival of family musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang comes to Birmingham next year.

The production, from September 7 to 18, will also mark the return to Birmingham Hippodrome for this festive season's Aladdin panto star Lee Mead, who will play Caractacus Potts.

The production will be seen earlier on tour in the Potteries, when it is staged at Hanley's Regent Theatre from March 30 to April 9 with comedian and actor Jason Manford as Potts, former Spandau Ballet star Martin Kemp as the Childcatcher and comic Phill Jupitus as Baron Bomburst and Lord Scrumptious.

Other theatre highlights coming up in Birmingham include Hairspray the Musical with Benidorm's Tony Maudsley as Edna Turnblad and Claire Sweeney as Velma Von Tussle at the New Alexandra Theatre this December and The Rocky Horror Show with Diana Vickers in January, also at the Alex.

Heaven's above! It's a Cloud Atlas



Clouds above Smethwick in the shape of the British Isles snapped by Express and Star reader David Steatham LOOMING large over the Black Country, this cloud taking the shape of the British Isles had people looking up to the skies.

The bizarre cloud map in the sky formation was spotted by David Steatham as he left Asda in Cape Hill, Smethwick, last Monday.

A cloud shaped England, Wales and Scotland were all clearly visible against the backdrop of the sun setting, and so quite spectacularly was Northern Ireland too.

From East Anglia to Kent and over to Cornwall, many distinctive parts of the country were recognisable in the curious cloud formation.

Mr Steatham said: "I was trying to make it out and then I realised what it looked like. It was quite fun really."

Oh what a hoot! Owl statues now help good causes

DR Whoot, Hootankham-oon, Florence Nightin'owl — all summer the Big Hoot owls have brought smiles to faces on the streets of Birmingham.

They are still doing good by raising more than half a million for charity.

Stourbridge auctioneers Fieldings took charge of proceedings at Birmingham Thinktank, with the 89 owls making £530,835 good causes. A total of £508,035 will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital, with the rest for Birchfield Harriers and Edward's Trust.

A sculpture called G'owl'd by Wolverhampton-artist Temper raised £15,000 for Edward's Trust. And an-

other piece called Fleet and Free brought in £7,800 for Birchfield Harriers. Each of the statues was more than 5ft high and were designed by artists, celebrities, community groups and schools.

Dr Whoot, inspired by the popular TV Time Lord, the creation of Liverpool artist Stephen McKay, was seen by thousands of commuters at the city's Snow Hill Station, and raised £10,500. Ozzy Osbourne, from Aston, helped to design his owl. It sold for £12,500.

The children's hospital won back Florence Nightin'owl, which has stood outside the hospital in Steelhouse Lane, for £6,000. It will now stay at the hospital.

UP to 17 per cent of expectant mothers are smoking while pregnant in parts of the Black Country — though the number has started to fall.

Sandwell is the only area of the Black Country to see an increase, with 10.5 per cent of mothers-to-be lighting up, compared to 10 per cent last year.

Wolverhampton still has the region's highest number, with 16.9 per cent, but it has dropped from 18.8 per cent.

Cannock was the only other local area to see an increase, from 10.4 per cent to 12.1 per cent.

Walsall's fell from 14.7 to 14.1 per cent, Dudley's from 15.7 to 15.1 per cent, and Stafford's from 14.5 to 9.5 per cent.

From April to June this year, a total of 675 women were recorded as smoking at the time of birth, leading to fears unborn babies are being caused serious harm.

Report by Adam Burling

According to the latest figure from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the number of pregnant women smoking across England dropped by 0.6 per cent.

Experts say smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems.

Complications

These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy.

Sandwell's director of health, Jyoti Atri, said: "We have been working closely with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust to actively identify pregnant smokers. They have recently introduced routine carbon monoxide tests for pregnant women and this is probably why we have seen a recent increase."

"The details of all of the pregnant smokers are then shared with our service and they are offered smoking cessation support, through one of our smoking cessation providers."

Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England, said: "There are still significant differences across regions and social groups with the burden and harm hitting hardest in more deprived communities."

"Stopping smoking is the best thing a woman and her partner can do to protect their own health and the health of their baby, both during pregnancy and after."

"Quitting and remaining smoke-free can be difficult, and like many smokers expectant parents may need help."

"Women who smoke need to know that they are increasing the chances of abnormal fetal growth and risking their baby being stillborn."

Despite the shocking results in the West Midlands, across England, the figures are the lowest since records began in 2006/07.

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HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive£925 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished detached house within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses to Birmingham and Cadley Heath. This large house features a lovely living room, dining room, downstairs w.c., study, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, front & rear gardens, double garage and driveway parking. The property can be available earlier than the advertised date. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Gayfield Avenue£775 pcm+Fees
Superb modern & totally refurbished 4 bedroom detached house on this very popular estate. (Withmoor Village) Featuring an entrance hall leading to study room, downstairs w.c., large lounge with separate dining room, fitted kitchen with 'Country Chef' range cooker, 3 double bedrooms & 1 single, family bathroom with shower, garage & driveway. Not to be missed!! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Ashville Drive£700 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished detached house in a popular area, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking, within easy reach of Halesowen College & town centre. Available now. EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, St Catherine's Close£650 pcm+Fees
Set in a quiet cul-de-sac is this lovely presented 3 bedroom modern semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: living room, fitted kitchen with appliances/dining area, 3 good size bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. Early viewing recommended. Available end of October.



HALESOWEN, Nimmings Road£625 pcm+Fees
Large end terrace property close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis Train Station. Lounge, fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 large bedrooms, bathroom with shower, central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens with garage to rear of property and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: D



KIDDERMINSTER, Longfellow Green£575 pcm+Fees
TO UNDER GO A FULL REDECORATION BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW TENANCY. Situated in a cul de sac location and not far from Kidderminster Town Centre and the local train station. Featuring 3 bedrooms, kitchen diner, lounge, family bathroom with shower over bath, front and rear garden, gas central heated, fully double glazed. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Margaret Avenue£575 pcm+Fees
This unfurnished mid terrace property is ideally located for local shops and bus links into Birmingham City Centre and Stourbridge. The property features lounge, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and driveway parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Belgrave Road£550 pcm+Fees
Situated in this convenient location close to local amenities and good transport links, this terraced property briefly comprises of 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and refitted bathroom. The property further benefits from having central heating, double glazing and pleasant rear garden. Available Now. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Clyde Street£495 pcm+Fees
Conveniently situated for local shops in Old Hill and the train station. Featuring 2 bedroom terraced house with 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 good size double bedrooms, carpeted cellar, rear garden with decking. Available soon. EPC: E



SEDGLEY, Tudor Vale £495 pcm+Fees
Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end mews house, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: G



HALESOWEN, Whitehall Court£495 pcm+Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with appliances, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure parking to rear of property. Available Now. EPC: G



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£475 pcm+Fees
Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station this unfurnished ground floor flat comprising electric storage heating, large living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking. EPC: G



NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm+Fees
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi detached house. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. In very popular area and good transport links for Merry Hill. 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A GUARANTOR REQUIRED. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING) EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Apperley Way£425 pcm+Fees
Available on a well sought after estate is this unfurnished 1st floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, communal dining area. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Glynn Crescent£425 pcm+Fees
A 2nd floor apartment on this popular development, having double glazing and gas central heating, the property offers lounge, open plan fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from a long driveway and garage. EPC: D



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£425 pcm+Fees
Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5 comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£425 pcm+Fees
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, unfurnished. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Somers Road£375 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment offering generous accommodation including: lounge with open plan kitchen, double bedroom with en-suite shower room, double glazing, communal garden, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: G



KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road£350 pcm+Fees
A fully re-furnished 1st floor studio apartment comprising of A combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, white bathroom suite with shower. Electric central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

PROPERTY

Three-bedroom home in popular area of town



NUMBER 7 Wenlock Road, Stourbridge, is for sale through Humberstone Homes at £179,950.

The well-proportioned detached family home comprises an entrance hall, lounge/diner with a feature flame-effect fire and patio door to the garden, a kitchen with built-in electric oven, gas hob and cooker hood. Upstairs is bedroom one with fitted wardrobes, two further bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom. There is a front garden with driveway to the garage, a rear garden with a patio, lawn, borders and shed. Call Humberstone Homes on 0121 4221188 or visit www.humberstonehomes.co.uk



Modern detached house ideal for growing family



THIS four-bedroomed detached house in Shadmoor Drive, Brierley Hill, is for sale through Your Move at offers over £250,000.

A modern style property having the benefit of a double garage, the gas central heated and double glazed accommodation comprises to the ground floor of an entrance hallway, a WC, a lounge, a dining room and a kitchen.

Upstairs there is a landing, master bedroom with en suite shower room, three further bedrooms and a house bathroom.

There is a rear garden, driveway parking and a double garage.

For further information contact Your Move on 01384 455000 or go online to visit the www.your-move.co.uk website.



NEW



ST KENELMS ROAD, ROMSLEY

UPDATED semi-detached home with NO UPWARD CHAIN in VILLAGE location. REFITTED kitchen diner leading to garden. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom with white suite on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. NEW carpets throughout. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

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NEW



DUDLEY ROAD, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED & SPACIOUS 3/4 bed family home. SPACIOUS lounge with conservatory off, LARGE kitchen/diner and study/play room/bedroom 4. 3 beds & REFITTED bathroom on first floor. GARAGE & driveway to front and gardens to rear. GCH, UPVC DBG. EPC rating: D

QUINTON

£199,950

MUST BE VIEWED



MARSHALL STREET, SMETHWICK

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, modern semi detached, offering flexible living accommodation, with double glazing, gas radiator heating, Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), delightful lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 5 BEDROOMS (originally 6), MASTER WITH SHOWER ROOM EN-SUITE, bathroom, GARAGE, rear garden. EPC C.

BEARWOOD

£199,950

MUST BE VIEWED



FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN

●●● OPEN DAY - Saturday 24th October 10 - 11 am ●●● EXTENDED semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY in CUL-DE-SAC position. NO UPWARD CHAIN. L-shaped large lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. Part GARAGE & parking to the front. Lawn garden to rear. GCH & DG fitted. EPC rating: C Ref: D1624

QUINTON

£169,950

NEW



UPPER MEADOW RD, QUINTON

EXTENDED home with DRIVEWAY to front. 16ft FITTED breakfast kitchen to rear, cloak room & 25ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms with FITTED furniture on 1st floor. Lawn garden to rear with patio. GCH & predominantly UPVC DG. EPC rating: E

QUINTON

£169,950

MUST BE VIEWED



ST KATHERINES ROAD, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED & EXTENDED home in cul-de-sac location. 25ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. Utility area & office with store room. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. DRIVEWAY & southerly facing rear garden. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD

£149,950

NEW



THOMPSON ROAD, SMETHWICK

Deceptively spacious, thoughtfully improved intermediate terraced property, convenient position, with double glazing, gas radiator heating, having attractive lounge, re-fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD

£129,950

MUST BE VIEWED



THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

Deceptively spacious, semi detached property, conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, with Porch, entrance hall, spacious through lounge, kitchen, lobby (downstairs wc off), 3 BEDS, bathroom, separate wc, good sized rear garden. EPC E.

BEARWOOD

£118,950

NEW PRICE



FRANCIS ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS, 2 DOUBLE bed end terraced property, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority DG, Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, D/S WC, UPSTAIRS bathroom, and pleasant well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F.

BEARWOOD

£115,000

NEW



DAVENTRY GROVE, QUINTON

Located in TREE LINED CUL-DE-SAC on the top floor. 21ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom & REFITTED WC. UPVC glazing & gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D

QUINTON

£99,950

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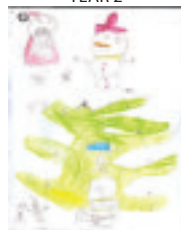
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Open weekend to show off parks

ADVERTISING
FEATURE

THE owners of a premier group of parks in the Heart of England & Mid Wales are opening their gates this weekend to welcome visitors who want to explore the idea of holiday home ownership.

The aptly named "Bestparks" group are hosting a Showcase Weekend on October 24 and 25 at all of their six, first class country parks.

This family owned group prides itself on operating a range of parks that never compromise on the Bestparks Five-Star standards.

"What sets us apart from our competitors is that we have parks within our group that can match most holiday home owner's needs," explained Alwyn Jones, founder of the business and father to Wayne and Glenn who both run their own Bestparks.

Location

"Some people want more facilities for families, whilst others want small and intimate country retreats," he added. "Within the Bestparks group we are able to deliver on all counts!"

The proud father added: "Wayne and Sarah's park – Poston Mill is unrivalled in the area for location and park facilities, while Pearl Lake run by Glenn and Hannah is a luxury country park set around a breathtaking 15 acre glacier lake."

Other parks include The Smithy in mid-Wales, which is popular with people from the Midlands wanting a high



The open weekend will showcase what Bestparks has to offer

quality halfway point for the coast; Arrow Bank a small select park in the historical village of Eardisland; Westbrook a touring park near Ludlow and Rockbridge Park at Presteigne which also has park homes for sale.

This is the third open weekend of the season and is a chance for all six parks to showcase themselves and their facilities and an opportunity for visitors to

view the wide range of the latest 2016 model holiday homes on display.

Each park will be hosting events over the weekend and as all the parks are within an hour's drive of each other visitors have a great opportunity to also enjoy this beautiful region.

You can download free tickets for the events at www.bestparks.co.uk website.

LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL - ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE IN 2016



Staff, students and governors of Leasowes High School wish to thank every single prospective parent and student who attended our Open Fortnight events this year. The feedback from over 600 attendees has been very positive indeed and we look forward to offering a first class education to youngsters in our district and beyond in 2016.

The following written remarks from parents/carers at a recent 'Year 7 Settling-In Evening' underline the efforts we put into ensuring a good start at Leasowes High School:

- After being worried about moving to high school, my child is very happy to attend and enjoys Leasowes.
- The transformation in my son has been amazing - he hated primary school and showed very little enthusiasm. Now he is happy and has got his sparkle back!
- Really pleased with how my daughter has settled in - she has the highest number of reward points already!
- He loved Summer School.

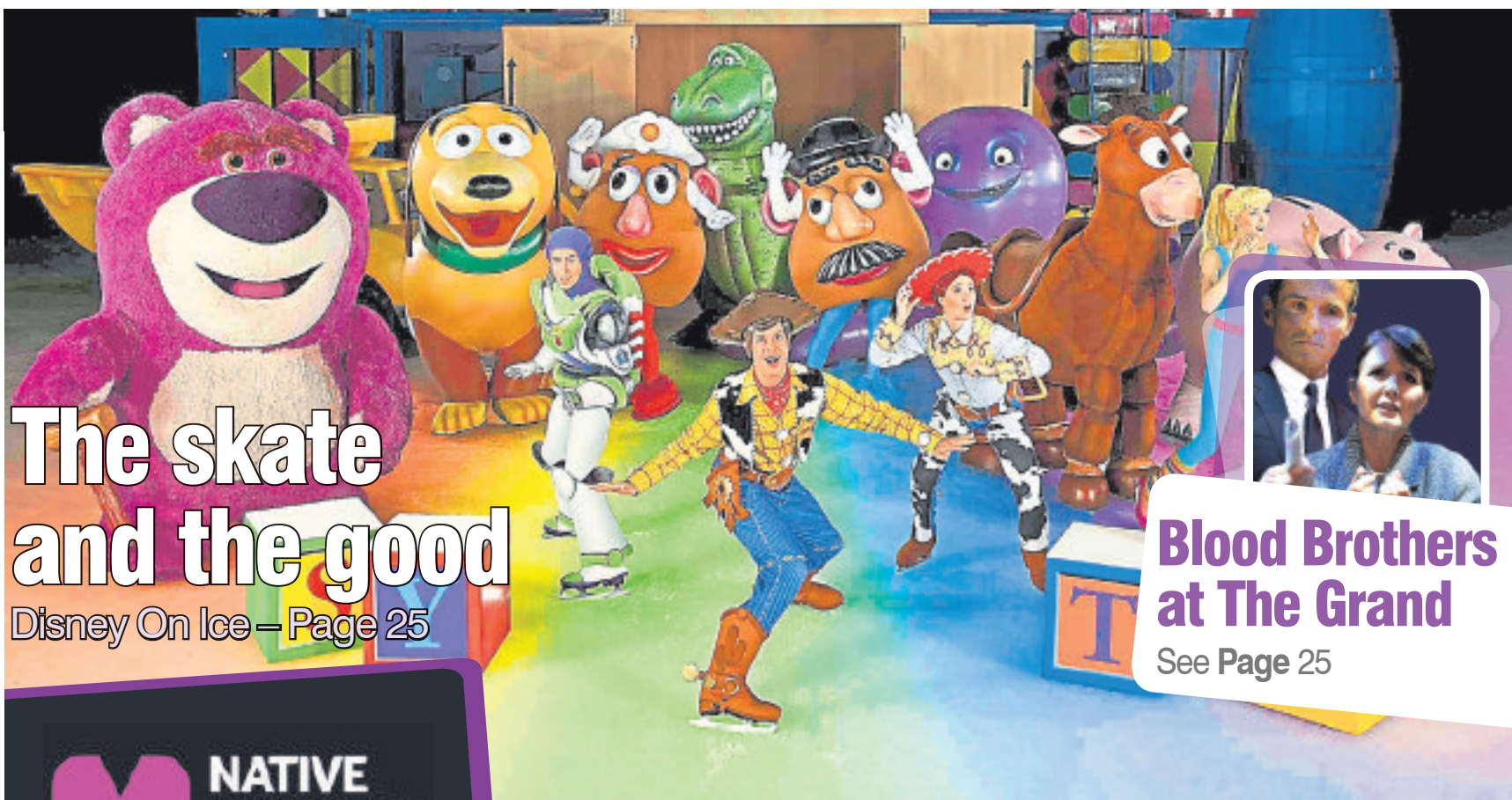
- I am surprised at how quickly my daughter has settled in - Leasowes is improving her confidence.
- We are really pleased with the transition.

Leasowes High School currently admits children from Dudley, Sandwell and Birmingham primary schools and with only 150 places on offer we hope that you are successful at gaining a place with us for September 2016.

Small class sizes, strong discipline, excellent uniform, a personal approach, tablet computers for all, an exciting two week summer school which is free of charge to parents/carers, all combine to help our students to ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE. If you require more information or wish to tour the school please telephone us on 01384 816285 or email us on info@leasowes.dudley.sch.uk

**ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE**

fast the ticket



**The skate
and the good**

Disney On Ice – Page 25

**Blood Brothers
at The Grand**

See Page 25

**NATIVE
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For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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- Children's quiz along the line and FREE* magic shows at The Engine House: 27, 28 & 29 October
- Fiendishly fun evening Ghost Trains: 29, 30 & 31 October: Pre-book essential
- Star steam locomotives TORNADO and ROYAL SCOT operating on 24 & 25 October

*FREE with 'Freedom of the Line' ticket or Annual Family Pass

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SUNDAY 6 Dec - Elvis Tribute
SUNDAY 13 Dec - Freddie Mercury Tribute

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OldburyREP

7th -14th November 'Haunting Julia' by Alan Ayckbourn

A sinister ghost story which follows the suicide of a young musician, Julia.

Twelve years after her death she haunts the men who were closest to her and as the tale unfolds tensions mount to a spine chilling finale.

Monday-Tuesday £8.00 (No Concession)
Wednesday-Saturday £10.00 (Concessions £9.00)

Christmas with Langley Band:

The Band's Annual Christmas Concerts will take place on December 2nd and 4th at 8.00pm and on the 5th at 7.30 with a programme of festive favourites book online www.langleyband.co.uk or phone 01384 918547

FILMS AT OLDBURY REP

23rd October: the supernatural drama 'THE FALLING',
20th of November: Sir Ian McKellen in 'MR. HOLMES',
12th December: Disney's 'INSIDE OUT'. A treat for all the family

All films are shown on our 16ft screen with high quality Digital projection in our 170 seat auditorium.

All tickets are still just £3.50 and the screening starts at 7.30pm

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Now booking! Box Office 0121 552 2761

Box Office open Monday evening from 7.30pm, Friday evening prior to main house production and the night of the production at 7.00pm

Spring Walk, Langley B64 4SP

Online bookings now available at our website: www.oldburyrep.org

John Bramwell




Sunday, 7pm
02 Institute, B'ham

I Am Kloot's singer-songwriter comes to the Digbeth venue as part of his first European solo tour armed with new songs since the band's top ten album Let It All In.

www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk

Songhoy Blues



Monday, 8pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

This young African band fled their Songhoy homeland in north-eastern Mali when Islamic extremists banned music and have won acclaim for their debut album Music In Exile.

Visit hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Richard Hawley



Tuesday, 7pm
02 Institute, B'ham

Sheffield's mellow-voiced master of moody and melancholy rock ballads comes to the city on the back of his eighth album Hollow Meadows, meditative musings with a twang.

Visit o2institutebirmingham.co.uk

Brick



Thursday - Nov 1
NEC, Birmingham

Next weekend The NEC Birmingham hosts this huge show of all things LEGO. The show promises to be a great day out for families during the half term break.

Visit www.thenec.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Fred Zeppelin: Led Zeppelin Tribute

Fri at 12am, £8 - £9

The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Soul Legends

Wed at 7.30pm, £25 - £27.90

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

And Finally...Phil Collins: Phil Collins Tribute

Fri at 7.30pm, £19.50

Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

BabaJack

Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £12

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

All Star 1960s

Tue at 7.30pm, £26 - £28.90

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Modern Minds

Sat at 6pm - 10pm, £6

The Institute, Digbeth, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Foxes

Thu at 7pm, £14

O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Ben Montague

Fri at 8pm - 11pm, £10

The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Delain

Fri at 6pm, £15

The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Richard Hawley

Tue at 7pm, £25

The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Ella Henderson

Sun at 7pm, £23.50

O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Raymond Froggatt

Thu at 7.30pm, £17

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Glenn Hughes

Mon at 8.30pm, £22.50

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Donovan

Fri at 8pm, £25 - £30

Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Spear Of Destiny

Thu at 7pm, £15.40

Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Focus

Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £16

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Andy Fairweather Low

Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £22

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Gordon Davis: Elvis Presley Tribute

Fri at 8.30pm,

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Holler

Fri at 5pm,

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Vamps

Wed at 8pm,

O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Plumhall

Thu at 8pm, Free

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

The Quik

Fri at 8pm,

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

The Loveless

Sat at 8pm,

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Hothouse Flowers

Fri at 7.30pm, £28 - £29.50

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Lovers Rock Monologues

Sat at 8pm, £10

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Turbowolf

Wed at 7pm, £9

O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Open Mic Night

Mon at 8.30pm, Free

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Deathcrusher Tour

Fri at 6.30pm, £25.31

Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Santa Cruz

Sat at 7pm, £7

Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Seth Lakeman

Thu at 8.30pm, £18

The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Dominic Kirwan And Mary Duff

Wed at 7.30pm, £21

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock. Call 01543 578762

The Unthanks

Mon at 8pm, £20

Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Session Americana

Tue at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £12.50

Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Steve 'N' Seagulls

Tue at 7pm, £10

Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Bella Hardy

Wed at 8pm - 10pm, £14 - £15

Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

JAZZ & BLUES

Joe Stilgoe: New Songs For Old Souls

Sat at 7.30pm, £18.50

mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Marcus Miller

Wed at 7.30pm, £25

Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Ryan Trebilcock

Fri at 5pm, Free

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Stephen Hough In Recital

Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £35

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

BICS - Valery Gergiev Conducts The Winners Of The 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition

Wed at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £45

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Grimethorpe Colliery Band

Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50

Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Viva L'Italia

Thu at 7.30pm, £4 - £6.50

Birmingham Conservatoire, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

CBSO 2015-16 - Pictures At An Exhibition

Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Disney On Ice: Worlds Of Enchantment

Fri at 7pm, Sat at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, Sun at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, Tue at 3pm, Wed at 3pm, Thu at 3pm, 7pm, £19.74 - £46.62

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

How The Koala Learnt To Hug: People's Theatre Company

Mon at 2.30pm, £7.50 - £28

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Annie

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat - Sun at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed - Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £20 - £42.50

Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Blood Brothers

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 - £32.50

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

James Acaster: Represent

Thu at 8pm - 11pm, £14

The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

One Man Breaking Bad: The Unauthorised Parody

Wed at 7.30pm, £20.35

Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Paddy McGuinness: Daddy McGuinness

Thu at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £36

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Patrick Kielty: Help!

Sun at 6.45pm - 11pm, £16

The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Ruby Wax: Sane New World

Sun at 7.30pm, £16 - £20

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Oh, Whistle...& The Ash Tree

Tue at 7.30pm, £10 - £15

Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Little Frankenstein (Over 5s)

Mon at 2pm - 3pm, £4 - £6

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

Hypnosis: Lichfield Players

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12

Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Comedy In The Met

Sat at 8pm, £10

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Brick 2015

Sat at 11am - 6pm, £20

The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

UK fans of Disney On Ice are the best

DISNEY'S most popular characters will be brought to life when some of the world's greatest ice skaters arrive in Birmingham.

Disney On Ice will present Worlds of Enchantment until November 1 at the Barclaycard Arena.

Fans can rev up for non-stop fun with four of their favourite Disney stories. Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's Cars will perform high-speed stunts and race across the ice while Ariel and The Little Mermaid's undersea kingdom will give the audience a chance to dive into adventure.

The toys are back in town as Toy Story favourites Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Jessie try to escape from the rambunctious tots of Sunnyside Daycare and youngsters can also enter the wintery world of Arendelle with sisters Anna and Elsa and pals Olaf and Kristoff from Disney's Frozen, as they learn the meaning of true love.

Ice skater Dora Vikar will be among the cast taking to the floor. She is part of the 80-strong Disney entourage who are part of the show.

"We tell the stories that people know from the movies," said Dora. "The present show has four stories in it. It starts with Toy Story, which everybody knows, then it goes into the Little Mermaid, which is another classic. After the intermission, we have Cars and then Frozen is the last segment."

"We have fantastic music and lighting and of course a lot of skating and lots of spins and costumes and tricks. I'm very proud to be part of it. I've



Favourite characters from Disney's Frozen are a perfect match for the ice show

been with Disney On Ice for 15 years and I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't love it. It's really fun."

Britain has one of the most enthusiastic audiences for Disney On Ice.

"The UK is fantastic for being very excited," she explained. "We go backstage and we are always saying: 'Did you see that little boy, or the mum,

the way they were happy?' People love the show."

"I would say the UK public is really loud and enthusiastic. Toy Story always gets a big reaction in the UK and that's great for me because I'm in that segment a lot, playing Jessie."

See the www.barclaycardarena.co.uk website for further information.

Brothers and sisters show

SINGER Maureen Nolan is following in the footsteps of three of her sisters when she takes on the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone in the musical Blood Brothers, which is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

One of the singing siblings The Nolans, who had hits in the UK, Japan, Ireland and Australia during the 1970s and 80s, she first followed sisters Denise, Linda and Bernie into the role ten years ago.

"I had just done my first play in 2004 and I got a call to say would I come and audition for Blood Brothers," said Maureen. "Linda was leaving the West End to go on tour so I auditioned and got the part, and that was ten years ago."

"People laugh at me but I said to someone recently that they'll have to surgically remove me from this part!"

"I absolutely love the musical and absolutely love Mrs Johnstone, so it's a winning combination."

She added: "I've done other bits throughout the years, I've done Footloose and various plays, straight plays and comedies, but I always ended up coming back to Blood Brothers."

Maureen will be starring opposite Wet Wet Wet singer Marti Pellow as the Narrator (pictured together right) in the much-loved Liverpool drama-musical by Willy Russell.

It is staged at the Grand from Monday to Saturday with tickets starting from £19.50.

See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.



'It's a winning combination'

Hear Hooton at the Hare and Hounds

ONE of the best new English bands to emerge this summer, Hooton Tennis Club, leave their home on The Wirral for a gig at Birmingham Kings Heath pub venue the Hare and Hounds on Wednesday, October 28.

The High Street venue also hosts the All Years Leaving festival tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday featuring psych band The Wythes, plus Speedy Ortiz, Kagoule, East India Youth, Money and many others.

Mancunian producer Synkro plays Saturday, African band Songhoy Blues on Monday and Leeds singer/songwriter Eaves on Tuesday.

See www.hareandhoundsskingsheath.co.uk website.

Silver Sword is brought to stage

A much-loved children's novel is being brought to life on stage in Birmingham next week.

Ian Serraillier's The Silver Sword will be at The Old Rep on Station Road from tonight (Thu) to Saturday.

The classic story of a family forced to flee their homeland because of war is echoed in modern times, though this deals with a Polish family who flee Warsaw in 1940, after the Nazis invade, and aim to reunite in neutral Switzerland.

Adapted by Susie McKenna and Steven Edis, it features animal puppets. Visit website www.oldreptheatre.co.uk or call 0121 3599444.

The Voice of Rock returns to Robin 2

VETERAN rockers feature at Bilston's Robin 2 over three consecutive nights next week.

Dutch progressive rock legends Focus, featuring Thijs Van Leer, are at the Mount Pleasant venue on Sunday. The band had hits in the 70s with Sylvia and Hocus Pocus and have recently re-recorded them using modern techniques. The 'Voice of Rock', AKA Cannock-raised singer and bassist Glenn Hughes, of Trapeze, Deep Purple and Black Country Communion, is in concert on Monday. Then on Tuesday it's a date rescheduled from March for 1970s psychedelic outfit Pink Fairies.

See www.therobin.co.uk

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The breezy, light and airy interior of the Cornhouse



Fishy starter – beetroot and vodka cured salmon



Tiled floors and wooden tables and chairs make The Cornhouse a welcoming environment



The Cornhouse restaurant in Shrewsbury

Time for Cornhouse to rise to next level in town's gastro-style race

IT'S been about two years since The Cornhouse opened its doors to an unsuspecting Shropshire public.

The delightful bistro at the foot of Shrewsbury's Wyle Cop had undergone a transformative change. Under its former ownership it had been dark, dingy and distinctly unpalatable.

And then, almost overnight, it was converted by its new owners into a bright and breezy, light and airy venue that produced distinctive and consistently good gastro classics.

The Cornhouse occupies a fabulous location; it's an easy walk for townfolk and is between two of the town's largest car parks, providing easy access for visitors. It seems to be busy most of the time and earns decent-to-good reviews on TripAdvisor. I just

By Andy Richardson

get the feeling, however, that it's ready to move up a level.

The service is pretty good. Two men were working the floor on the evening my friend and I dined. They were exceptional. A slim, dark-haired man was a class act. He'd booked our table earlier and was attentive and engaging throughout. Charming and polite, he ran the show like clockwork, making sure our glasses were always half-full, rather than half-empty. He was a real asset.

The food was pretty good, but could have been better. It was tasty, well-presented and decently-priced – but not particularly memorable. A flash of inspiration, a twist more seasoning, an additional ingredient here and there – those are the things that would have made all the difference.

My friend started with a beetroot-and-

vodka-cured salmon dish. Beautifully coloured and with knock-your-socks-off quantities of vodka, it was an accomplished if unspectacular starter. My crispy lamb salad was equally decent. Thin strips of deep-fried pulled lamb were golden and crunchy, contrasting well with the bitter leaves beneath. It was decent, but, in truth, it needed something else.

Crispy

The mains were similar. They were pretty good, decent but unremarkable. I opted for a chilli beef salad. Thin strips of crispy beef were piled high atop an Asian slaw. The plate had been scattered with cashew nuts and drizzled with sweet chilli. The contrasting zing-zang flavours and pleasing textures were a delight. The creaminess of the cashews provided balance against the gentle, just-two-on-the-thermostat heat of

the chilli. It was good, but not great; serviceable but unspectacular.

The bangers and mash was also fine. My friend polished off the plate and had no complaints. Though it wasn't food that captured the imagination, the ingredients were of a good quality and had been pleasantly cooked.

A warm waffle and ice cream finished off my friend's evening – and probably made his trousers a little tighter than they were at the start of the evening. Again, it was pleasant and enjoyable, if not unremarkable. I ate lemon tart, which was served with tart berries. It was so-so.

The Cornhouse has established itself as a popular and respected venue during two hard years of trading. Running restaurants is no easy game and the owners deserve all credit for their work. It's time now, however, to push on and reach the next level.

great events

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CHOICE



Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.20pm)
Last week, the gallivanting Gallifreyan and his sidekick arrived in Britain during Viking times, where they helped save villagers from destruction and met a mysterious young woman who captivated the Doctor. Now he and Clara are off on their travels again, this time turning up in England in 1651. They've hardly had time to step out of the Tardis before they're confronted by The Knightmare, a highwayman who, along with his assistant, stalks the dark streets of London. The robber is certainly a vicious chap, but the Time Lord realises there's more to him than meets the eye - or at least, he has a mysterious force behind him. But perhaps most remarkably, the adventure will reunite the Doctor with a couple of very familiar faces...

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. 4.00 Final Score. 5.30 BBC News. 5.40 Regional Programme. 5.45 Pointless Celebrities.
6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of pre-celebrity ballroom action as the celebrity hoofers who upset the judges in earlier editions try to do better - and hope to avoid the same fate as last week's eliminated couple - while those who have shown early promise aim to climb further up the leaderboard. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress as the hopefuls perform a mixture of routines, looking to avoid following the likes of Iwan Thomas and Anthony Ogogo out of the competition.
8.20 Doctor Who. A deadly highwayman going by the name of Knightmare stalks the dark streets of 17th-century London, but after finding some mysterious loot that's clearly not of this world, he comes face to face with the Doctor, who is on the trail of an alien artefact.
9.10 Casualty. Jacob persuades a harassed teacher to accept help, but he needs to take his own advice. Hospital drama, starring William Beck and Lee Mead.
10.00 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, are revealed, with special guests Nile Rodgers and Emin pushing the Lotto button.
10.10 BBC News: Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest top-flight matches, including Arsenal v Everton at the Emirates Stadium and West Ham United v Chelsea at Upton Park; National Lottery Update.
11.50 The Apprentice. The candidates are tasked with finding nine items for the best possible price in a test of their negotiation skills, with the search taking place on the Kent coast and in France. (R)
12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.40 Film: The Magic Box. (1951) 8.25 Film: Angels One Five. (1953) 10.00 Animal Park. (R) 11.00 Animal SOS. (R) 11.30 Animal SOS. (R) 12.00 The Great British Bake Off - Masterclass. (R) 1.00 Hollywood Adresses Talking Pictures. 1.50 Film: Gypsy. (1962) 4.10 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. (R) 5.10 World's Weirdest Events. (R)
6.10 Flog It! Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge search for antiques in Bangor, North Wales, and Paul Martin hears Lord Anglesey's memories of Rex Whistler painting the famous mural at Plas Newydd. (R)
7.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don takes stock of his year at Longmeadow, while Carol Klein celebrates the impressive displays put on by flowering plants to attract pollinators. Last in the series. (R)
7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels the Habsburg imperial line from Vienna across the impressive Semmering Pass, a railway line blasted through the Alps, as he make his way onward to Trieste.
8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring's men acquire a boat, planning to use it for coastal patrols, but they get lost in fog and believe they have crossed the Channel when they finally reach dry land. Last in the series. (R)
9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, with guests Sheila Hancock, Jimmy Carr and Jeremy Clarkson joining regular panellist Alan Davies.
9.45 Formula 1: US Grand Prix - Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry presents the key moments from the battle for pole position in the 16th round of the campaign, held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.
11.00 Top Coppers. The world's greatest art thief and Frenchman, Gerard Cliche, is in town, while Mahogany and Rust are aiming to win the Golden Doughnut prize. (R)
11.30 Film: The Quiet American. (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine.
1.00 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) 2.20 (GMT) This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockout Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockout Street. (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.50 Sooby. (R) 7.05 Fish Hooks. 7.25 Adventure Time. 7.45 Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.15 Horrid Henry. 8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 11.50 Countrywise. (R) 10.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.50 ITV News; Weather. 11.55 Downton Abbey. (R) 1.00 The X Factor. (R) 3.00 Rugby World Cup. Coverage of the first semi-final (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.40 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. New series. TV presenters Fiona Bruce, Rick Edwards, Kate Humble and Joe Swash pit their general knowledge against a trivia expert as they try to win thousands of pounds for charity. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts.
8.00 The X Factor. Oily Murs and Caroline Flack present the next stage of the talent show, as the 24 acts to make it into the four categories - Overs, Groups, Girls and Boys - complete their training in the judges' house and return to the London studio to perform once again in the hope of impressing the judges and the public. At the end of the show, half the acts featured will be eliminated from the contest.
10.25 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Doc Martin star Martin Clunes. Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell and actor Nick Frost. Plus, music by John Newman.
11.30 ITV News; Weather. 11.45 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the opening semi-final, which took place at Twickenham. The stakes were high as a place in the showpiece game next Saturday awaited one of the teams.
12.30 ITV Changed My Life. Documentary focusing on how ITV shows have shaped people's destinies. (R) 1.25 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
3.00 (GMT) Show Me the Telly. Quiz show, hosted by Richard Bacon. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.35 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.00 The Grid. 7.30 FIM Superbike World Championship. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Fraser. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. 10.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 11.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 12.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 12.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races from Doncaster, Cheltenham and Newbury. 4.05 Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Channel 4 News.
6.05 Location, Location, Location. Revisiting two couples - Chris and Nicola from Hastings and Trudi and Steve from Edinburgh - who were looking to find homes nine years ago. (R)
7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findlay, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house covered in rusty metal. However, their prominent riverside plot in the traditional and architecturally conservative area of South Downs means everyone will be watching. The project proves to be a real rollercoaster when the fitting of the rusty steel cladding goes wrong, cash flow problems threaten to bring work to a halt, and the couple announce that a baby is on the way. (R)
8.00 The Sex Change Spitfire Ace. The Secret History documentary tells the story of the unique relationship between two of the most remarkable pioneers of the 20th century - Michael Dillon and Roberta Cowell.
9.00 It Was Aflight in the 1980s. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at TV shows from past decades, revisiting the time of revolution on the small screen in the 1980s.
10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.05 TFI Friday. Chris Evans hosts the lively entertainment show, with guests including Justin Bieber, Dawn French, Macklemore & Lewis, Nicholas Hoult and Hurts. (R)
12.10 Fargo. (R) 1.05 Film: The Fourth Kind. (2009) 1.40 (GMT) Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.50 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 4.55 River Cottage Bites. (R) 5.05 Fifteen to One. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.35 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.35 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.30 Film: Paper Angels. (2014) Festive drama, starring Josie Bissett. 2.15 Film: Columbo: A Case of Immunity. (1975) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.45 Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind. (1975) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.10 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly howl, featuring people who crash weddings, sporting fails and flops, and science experiments.
7.05 Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. Documentary, made by the team behind Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud, using online clips and live case studies to explore the dangerous side of the domestic feline. The programme draws links between big cats in the wild and their tame cousins, and provides first-hand testimony of the worst cat attacks in Britain - cases in which people have been hospitalised, and cats have literally punctured arteries. (R)
8.05 5 News Weekend. 8.10 The Gadget Show. Amy Williams and Jason Bradbury check out the latest health apps, Jon Bentley reveals which tech can help keep car insurance costs low, and there is a look at next-generation TVs. (R)
9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights of the weekend's matches, including Blackburn Rovers v Burnley at Ewood Park, Brentford v Charlton Athletic at Griffin Park, and Rotherham United v Sheffield Wednesday at New York Stadium in the Championship. Plus, Peterborough United v Doncaster Rovers at London Road in League One and Portsmouth v Mansfield Town at Fratton Park in League Two.
10.25 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) A 23rd-century New York cab driver protects a mysterious woman destined to save the world from destruction. Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis.
12.50 Star Trek: The True Story. (R) 1.40 SuperCasino. 3.10 (GMT) Gift of Life. (R) 4.00 Secrets of the Scammers. (R) 4.55 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride. 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News. 10.00 Film: I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997) 11.40 Family Guy. 1.50 Asian Provocateur. 1.20 (GMT) Russell Howard's Good News. 1.50 Russell Howard's Good News. 2.20 The Fear. 2.50 Great TV Mistakes. 3.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Timewatch: Captain Cook - The Man Behind the Legend. 8.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America. 9.00 Arne Dahl: Requiem Part 1. 10.00 Arne Dahl: Requiem Part 2. 11.00 Psychodrama: Britannia. 12.00 Totally 60s Psychodrama: Rock at the BBC. 1.00 Arena: Magical Mystery Tour Revisited. 1.00 (GMT) Top of the Pops: 1980-1985 Lost Kingdoms of Central America. 2.35 Close
ITV2
11.25 Coronation Street. 2.00 Tricked. 3.00 The Almost Impossible Gameshow. 4.00 You've Been Framed! 4.35 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 6.40 Film: Lost in Space (1998) 9.20 James Bond's Spectre - With Jonathan Ross. 10.25 The Xtra Factor. 11.25 Celebrity Juice. 12.10 The Almost Impossible Gameshow. 1.10 Tricked. 1.05 Film: (GMT) Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (2009) 3.55 Teleshopping. 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.40 Inspector Morse. 3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple. 5.00 Lewis. 7.00 Doc Martin. 8.00 Midsomer Murders. 10.00 Lewis. 12.00 Inspector Morse. 1.05 (GMT) Wycliffe. 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen. 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
1.05 Pawn Stars. 12.25 MotoGP Highlights. 1.30 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 3.05 Film: Field of Dreams (1989) 5.10 Film: Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) 8.00 Storage Wars. 8.00 Film: Open Range (2003) 10.10 The Cycle Show. 1.00 (GMT) The Cycle Show. 2.55 Minder. 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen. 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Film: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) 1.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. 1.30 The Goldbergs. 2.30 The Big Bang Theory. 8.30 The Big Bang Theory: Top Gun. 9.00 Film: Skyline (2010) 10.50 The Inbetweeners. 11.55 The IT Crowd. 1.20 Tattoos After Dark. 1.00 (GMT) The Inbetweeners. 1.35 The Inbetweeners. 2.00 Rules of Engagement. 2.45 Suburgatory. 3.50 Rules of Engagement. 5.00 Revenge Film4
11.00 The Rare Breed (1966) 1.00 Mirror Mirror (2012) 1.35 Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) 5.45 Australia (2008) 9.00 FASTER (2010) 10.55 Spring Breakers (2012) 12.45 The Reef (2010) 1.25 (GMT) Intero (1980) 3.00 Close

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Date	Excursion	Adult 16+	Senior 60+	Child 3-15	Route Code
Sat 31st	Blackpool Illuminations	£20	£18	£16	F
NOVEMBER					
Sat 7th	West Midlands Safari Park NEW BONFIRE & FIREWORK FESTIVAL Animal enclosure will be closed	£20	£19	£17	J
Fri 13th	Weston-Super-Mare *Illuminated Carnival* 2 SEATS FOR £28 NOT TO BE MISSED!	£16	£15	£14	I
Fri 20th	Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market	£16	£15	£14	E
Sat 21st	Chester Christmas Market	£17	£16	£15	F
Thur 26th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Every Last Thursday of the Month)	£23	£23	-	G
Fri 27th	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre	£16	£15	£13	F
Sat 28th	Bruges & Brussels Christmas Markets 2 Nights B&B - Hotel Europe, Ostend 4*	£155	£155	-	TBC
Sun 29th	York as you please... Christmas Shopper/St Nicholas Christmas Fayre	£20	£18	£15	B
Mon 30th	Bakewell Market & Chatsworth House... at Christmas	£27	£26	-	B
DECEMBER					
Tue 3rd	Christmas Lunch & show at Wickstead Park NEW 2 Course Christmas Lunch & Show (Show name TBC)	£40	£40	-	TBC
Fri 4th	Lincoln Christmas Market	£19	£17	£15	C
Sun 6th	Bath Christmas Market	£19	£17	£15	C
Sun 6th	Santa Safari @ West Midlands Safari Park *ONE OF THE BEST SANTA EXPERIENCES EVER!	£21	£21	£23	E
Mon 7th-Fri 11th	Torquay *Turkey & Tinsel* The Derwent Hotel - 4 Nights HB	£229	£229	TBC	D
Thu 17th	Nifty 50's Mystery Christmas Lunch Excursion *MYSTERY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL*	£28	£28	-	G
Sat 19th -Tue 22nd	DISNEYLAND PARIS AT CHRISTMAS *3 NIGHTS BB* WITH 2 DAY HOPPER TICKET	From £299	From £299	£199 (3-11)	TBC
Sun 20th	Warner Bros Studio, London Christmas Special Harry Potter Studio Tour @ CHRISTMAS	£50	£50	£40	C
Mon 21st	Hyde Park Winter Wonderland 2015 NEW London's Spectacular Christmas Destination! (Activity tickets not included)	£20	£20	£15	A

CHOICE



Tom Bateman
Jekyll and Hyde (ITV, 6.30pm)
New fantasy adventure series inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's novel. The grandson of the infamous Dr Jekyll returns to London from Ceylon in the 1930s when he receives an inheritance. As he delves into his family's mysterious past, he does not realise he is being pursued by members of a secret society – while a ruthless spymaster intends to use him as bait for a trap. Tom Bateman and Richard E Grant head the cast, while the scripts have been written by Charlie Higson of The Fast Show fame. Natalie Gumede, Donald Sumpter, Stephanie Hyam, Enzo Cilenti, Christian McKay, Michael Karim, Robin Hooper and Thomas Coombes make up the supporting cast.

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.00 Sunday Morning Live.** **11.00 Sunday Politics.** **12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 BBC News: Weather.** **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **2.15 Autumn's Supermarket Secrets.** (R) **3.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.00 Points of View.** **4.15 Songs of Praise.** **4.50 DIY SOS: Homes for Veterans.** (R) **5.50 BBC News.**
6.05 Regional Programme.
6.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Shauna Lowry explore North Wales, meeting a family that fishes for mussels using traditional methods, discovering how a breed of Portuguese horse is being kept on the Llyn Peninsula and visiting a school that keeps both chickens and bees. Plus, Sean Fletcher meets residents of a village who were displaced by the building of a reservoir 50 years previously, and Adam Henson pays tribute to his father, who died recently.
7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and veteran rocker Bryan Adams performs.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire. Finds on display include original illustrations for Roald Dahl's book Fantastic Mr Fox, a set of motorcyclist Barry Sheene's racing leathers, a collection of Star Wars toys, a mysterious metal rod that proves to be far more valuable than it appears and a miniature house used for training plumbers. A visitor to the show tries to find a glass figure for her mother, to replace one that exploded.
9.00 From Darkness. Claire's confession leaves John devastated, and she makes a desperate attempt to use Lucy's obsession against her – but the plan places her own family in danger. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Formula 1: US Grand Prix – Highlights. Suzi Ruiz presents the key moments from the 16th round of the campaign.
12.00 Film: Wake Wood. (2010) Horror, with Aidan Gillen. **1.25 Weather** for the Week Ahead. **1.30 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 (GMT) Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **6.45 The Big Allotment Challenge.** (R) **7.45 Countryfile Autumn Special.** (R) **8.45 Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **10.45 The Great British Bake Off – Masterclass.** (R) **11.45 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** (R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** **1.00 NFL Live.** **5.00 The Railway: Keeping Britain on Track.** (R)
6.00 Britain's Classroom Heroes 2015. Dan Snow presents an awards ceremony from the Royal Opera House celebrating Britain's best teachers. Featuring a performance from the cast of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.
7.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve. The adventurer travels around the islands and mainland coast of the Caribbean Sea, beginning by visiting the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico. (R)
8.00 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. Ben Fogle takes the contestants to Laos, where they must fish in the widest rapids in the world using traditional bamboo poles and lines and cast netting from small wooden boats.
9.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrow pilots mark the end of an era and go through gruelling underwater training ahead of a display at Blackpool. However, high winds threaten to scupper the event.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, including Manchester United v Manchester City at Old Trafford and Sunderland v Newcastle United at the Stadium of Light.
11.20 Family Guy. Quagmire accidentally marries a prostitute during a drunken visit to the Harvard University campus, and tries to prove he is gay in an effort to rid himself of his new wife.
11.40 Family Guy. Meg goes on a Valentine's Day date with a guy she met online. Brian is visited by all of his former girlfriends and Quagmire is transformed into a beautiful woman.
12.00 Film: Trishna. (2011) An Indian woman begins a secret relationship with her employer, but fears she has made a terrible mistake as he grows more distant. Romantic drama, with Freida Pinto and Riz Ahmed. **1.50 Sign Zone:** Countryfile Autumn Special. (R) **2.45 Holby City.** (R) **3.45 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 (GMT) CITV: (GMT) Bottom Knockout Street. **6.10 Bottom Knockout Street.** (R) **6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **6.50 Sooty.** (R) **7.05 Fish Hooks.** **7.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles.** **7.45 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** **8.15 Horrid Henry.** **8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **9.00 Horrible Science.** **9.25 FIA Formula E Championship.** **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.25 ITV News: Weather.** **11.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.35 The X Factor.** (R) **3.00 Rugby World Cup.** Coverage of the second semi-final (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.15 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.20 ITV News: Weather.
6.30 Jekyll and Hyde. New series. Fantasy adventure series inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's novel.
7.30 The X Factor. Olly Murs and Caroline Flack present the next stage of the talent show, as the 24 acts to make it into the four categories – Overs, Groups, Girls and Boys – complete their training in the judges' house and return to the London studio to perform once again in the hope of impressing the judges and the public. At the end of the show, half the acts featured will be eliminated from the contest.
9.00 Downton Abbey. Tensions between Violet and Cora come to a head as the house is made open to the public to raise money for the hospital. Baxter is thrown into turmoil by an unexpected letter.
10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.15 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the concluding semi-final at Twickenham, as the line-up for next weekend's final was decided.
11.05 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the second round of fixtures, which included Gloucester v Saracens, Sale Sharks v Worcester and Northampton Saints v Newcastle Falcons.
12.05 River Monsters. Jeremy Wade travels to Florida following reports of fatal attacks in its waterways, trying to track down a survivor to find out how to catch one of his most fearsome adversaries. (R) **12.35 Jackpot 247.** **2.30 Motorsport UK.** **3.20 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **4.35 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 (GMT) Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.05 Plusnet Yorkshire Marathon.** **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.55 Film:** Furious Vengeance. (2010) Family comedy, starring Brendan Fraser. **3.45 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito.
5.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Homes by the Sea. Charlie Luxton examines properties on the Solway coast of Dumfries and Galloway, including a modern home that sits on top of a 100 foot cliff in In Sandhills Bay. He also heads for the picturesque port of Kirkcudbright, where he explores a home that takes its inspiration partly from local lighthouses and a Russian architectural masterpiece. Plus, a restored 15th century tower house at Barholm, near Gatehouse of Fleet, and a shoreline Cotswolds-style house at Abriolrig.
8.00 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go in search of the lost route between London and the sea, which has not been fully open for over 200 years and requires four different boats to traverse now. They leave the Thames at Teddington and travel through the Surrey and Sussex countryside before arriving at Guildford, and a canal-side theatre where they have both regularly performed. The final leg of the trip brings them to the River Arun before reaching the English Channel.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie revisits her past, while Quinn stalks his prey. Political thriller, starring Claire Danes.
10.00 9 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by Reginald D Hunter and Aisling Bea, while Holly Walsh is in Dictionary Corner with Susie Dent. (R)
11.05 Film: Killing Them Softly. (2012) Crime thriller, starring Brad Pitt, James Gandolfini and Ray Liotta.
12.55 Grand Designs Australia. **1.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.45 Food Unwrapped.** (R) **4.10 Four Rooms.** **5.05 Location, Location, Location.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Peppa Pig. **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **6.20 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bob the Builder.** (R) **6.45 Ticky Toc.** (R) **6.55 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.05 Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.25 Little Princess.** (R) **7.45 Pip Ahoy!** (R) **8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines.** **8.20 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **8.35 Football League Tonight.** (R) **10.00 Great South Run.** **12.30 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R) **12.40 Cowboy Builders.** (R) **1.40 Film:** Loch Ness. (1998) Family drama starring Ted Danson. **3.40 Film:** The Shaggy Dog. (2006) Comedy remake, starring Tim Allen. **5.30 Film:** Peter Pan. (1953) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Bobby Driscoll.
7.05 Film: Rush Hour. (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language and violence.
9.00 MTV European Music Awards 2015. Coverage of the music awards, presented by Ed Sheeran and Ruby Rose from Milan's Mediolanum Forum. This year's nominees for best female artist are Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus and Rihanna, while in the running for best male are Pharrell Williams, who will perform the show's opening number, Justin Bieber, Kanye West, Jason Derulo and Ed Sheeran. Other nominees include One Direction, Ellie Goulding, Little Mix, Jess Glynne, Coldplay, Muse, Florence + the Machine, Dizzee Rascal and Rita Ora.
11.05 20 Moments That Shocked Pop. Countdown of significant performers, songs or occasions that impacted the genre, including 1985's global Live Aid event, which redefined how society donated to charity. (R)
12.25 Film: The House Bunny. (2008) Comedy, with Anna Farris and Colin Hanks. **2.10 SuperCasino.** **4.00 House Doctor.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 (GMT) Top Gear. **8.00 Don't Tell the Bride.** **9.00 Russell Howard's Good News.** **10.00 Film:** Hannibal Rising (2007) **12.00 Family Guy.** **12.45 The Fear.** **1.15 Together.** **1.45 Asian Provocateur.** **2.15 Russell Howard's Good News.** **3.15 Together.** **3.45 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth.** **3.55 Close**
BBC Four
7.00 (GMT) Timeshift: The People's Liners – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **8.00 The Somme: Secret Tunnel Wars.** **9.00 Every Breath We Take: Understanding Our Atmosphere.** **10.00 Film:** False Trail (2011) **12.05 The End of the World?** A Horizon Guide to Armageddon **1.05 Timeshift:** When Wrestling Was Golden – Grapples, Grunts and Grannies **2.05 Timeshift:** When the Circus Comes to Town **3.05 Britain on Film: Road, Rail and Runways.** **3.55 Close**
ITV2
11.35 Coronation Street. **2.05 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **4.25 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **6.35 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00 The Xtra Factor.** **10.00 Film:** Knocked Out (2007) **12.00 Viral Tap.** **1.20 Reality Bites.** **1.55 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records.** **2.20 Teleshopping.** **5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**
ITV3
12.05 Inspector Morse. **2.20 Lewis.** **4.10 Midsomer Murders.** **6.10 Countrywise:** The Real Downton Abbey **7.15 Wycliffe.** **9.00 Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was.** **10.00 Birds of a Feather.** **10.30 Film:** Angela's Ashes (1999) **1.25 Agatha Christie's Marple.** **3.05 ITV3 Nightscreen**
ITV4
12.10 Rugby World Cup Highlights. **12.55 The Car Chasers.** **1.55 Pawn Stars.** **3.50 Storage Wars: New York.** **4.50 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** **8.00 Premiership Rugby Union.** **9.00 Film:** Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970) **11.20 Film:** Air America (1990) **1.40 Whisker Wars.** **2.10 I Want That Car.** **E4**
12.30 Hollyoaks Does Come Dine with Me. **3.05 Ride(s) Tube.** **4.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00 Film:** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **10.05 Gogglebox.** **11.40 The IT Crowd.** **12.45 Drifters.** **1.20 Telling Gum.** **1.50 How to Show Off Your Talent.** **2.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **2.40 How I Met Your Mother.** **3.02 Broke Girls.** **3.25 Hollyoaks**
Film4
11.00 (GMT) The Overlanders. (1946) **1.00 Coroline.** (2009) **3.05 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.** (2011) **5.05 Gulliver's Travels.** (2010) **6.40 Mission: Impossible 2.** (2000) **9.00 The Grey.** (2011) **11.15 The Change-Up.** (2011) **1.25 Volter.** (2006)



Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge

The Chronicle Crew set school kids from Manor Way Primary School the Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge and on pages 20 and 21 we have printed their superb designs. Now all we want you to do is choose your favourite and send your nomination to us. The designer with the most votes will be presented with their Christmas Card, framed and will receive a set of cards to send out to their family and friends.

As part of the prize, the Chronicle will donate £50 towards the School Funds

Please send your completed nomination form to:
Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge
Halesowen Chronicle Advertising Department
Black Lake, West Bromwich, B70 0QB

Thank you for voting!

Closing date for nominations is Friday 30th October 2015. Nominations from under 16s will require a parent/guardian's signature. Photocopies of the nomination form will not be accepted. Only one nomination per household. Completed nomination forms may not vote for their own entry. The winner will be the child with the most votes. In the event of a tie an independent Chronicle representative will decide.

Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge Nominator Form

Winning entry (card number) _____

Sponsored by _____

Your name _____

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Postcode _____

Tel. No. _____

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them

Signature _____ (Parent/Guardian if applicable)

★ Turn to pages 20 and 21 to view entries



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Goliyon Ki Raasteela Ram-Leela, Channel 4, 1.10am
Adaptation of Romeo and Juliet set in a Gujarati village where the Rajadis and Saneras have been feuding for 500 years. Ram meets and falls in love with Leela and their love is intense, but so is the enmity between their families and their relationship leads to bloodshed and tragedy. Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone take the roles of the star-crossed lovers in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's reworking of Shakespeare's classic. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
The Broken Circle Breakdown, Channel 4, 1.25am
Tattoo artist Elise meets bluegrass singer Didier at one of his concerts and they fall in love after bonding over their shared enthusiasm for American music. They marry and have a daughter, but face heart-wrenching tragedy. Belgian romantic drama, starring Johan Heldenbergh and Veerle Baetens. In Flemish and English. (2012)



King Arthur, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
King Arthur, Channel 5, 10pm
A Roman commander is posted to Britain in the last days of the empire and given a final mission to rescue a high-ranking official and his son stranded in the north. However, the endeavour reveals his true destiny is to lead the Britons against the new Saxon invasion. Historical adventure, starring Clive Owen, Keira Knightley, Ray Winstone and Stephen Dillane. (2004)

FRIDAY
Hollywood Homicide, BBC1, 11.50pm
Two cops are put to the test by the baffling case of a rapper murdered on stage, but they are more concerned with escaping the daily grind of catching crooks. Action comedy, starring Harrison Ford, Josh Hartnett and Lena Olin. (2003)
Witchfinder General, BBC2, 12.35am
A lawyer callously destroys innocent lives while performing his duties as a witchfinder, earning a terrifying reputation for brutality and injustice. Michael Reeves' 17th-century period horror, with Vincent Price, Ian Ogilvy, Rupert Davies and Hilary Dwyer. (1968)

The Doc comes to the aid of an American tourist

As with most picturesque Cornish seaside towns, Portwenn is no stranger to visitors. Over the past few years, the fishing village which Martin Ellingham calls home has welcomed the likes of Ben Miller, Chris O'Dowd and most recently Caroline Quentin.

However, even the busy streets of Portwenn real-life alter-ego, Port Isaac, have probably never witnessed such a throng of stars.

Not only do British talent Kelly Adams (Mr Selfridge) and Gemma Jones (Bridget Jones' Diary) grace the narrow streets tonight, there is also a cameo role from Hollywood A-lister Sigourney Weaver (Aliens).

Doc Martin star Martin Clunes revealed that Weaver was a big fan of the comedy drama and jumped at the chance of featuring in some small way.

Tonight she briefly plays an American tourist who bumps into the grumpy medic. It's not wonder he's in that mood either.

The doctor and Louisa (Caroline Catz) receive an intriguing invitation from Dr Timoney (Emily Bevan) to attend additional therapy sessions.

This aspect of the current series has provided laughs and insightful moment in abundance, and it is pleasing to realise the cast have enjoyed those scenes as much as we have.

Catz revealed: "You really do feel like you are in the session, and you go to the heart of what Dr Timoney is trying to tease out of both of them and you can see how difficult it is for them to deal with it."

"It is putting them in extreme and uncomfortable situations which makes it feel fresh."

For once though, it seems Dr Timoney may be on the receiving end of assistance when she is involved in a car accident outside the school.

Inside the building there is trouble of a different kind when the new art teacher (guest-star Adams) angers Louisa with her rather unorthodox methods.

However, there is good news on the horizon for one of the series' most popular characters – and it's long overdue for poor PC Joe Penhale. It may not have escaped your attention but the unlucky-in-love constable isn't exactly the best at his job.

Fortunately for him, sleepy Portwenn's crime figures are lower than Doc Martin's tolerance for blood, but the chief of police thinks the lack of crime is due to Penhale's excellent policing and offers him a promotion to Exeter.

Penhale is initially confused by this turn of events, but actor John Marquez knows that his character will be delighted. "The move is what he has always wanted in his life. It has been his dream to have his work noticed and respected. It's a dream to go and work in the big city and have a better job," he said. So, it looks like Portwenn could be losing one of it's most-loved characters – but will any of the residents be bothered?

Another character facing a change is Bert Large (Ian McNeice), whose financial problems with the restaurant have given him no end of trouble. In tonight's episode, he has to face his past and return to life as a handyman.



Sigourney Weaver appears in Doc Martin, Monday, ITV, 9pm

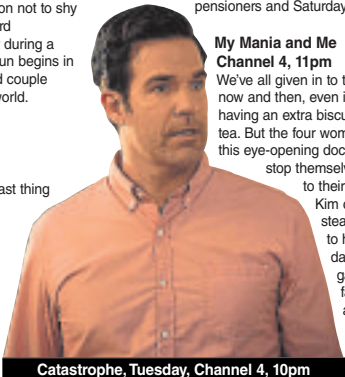
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Fargo Channel 4, 10pm
The events at the diner continue to have repercussions for various people on both sides of the law in the towns of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Luverne, Minnesota. Gerhardt crime family matriarch Floyd and her boys receive a surprising offer, while two unlikely murderers try their best to clean up the mess they have made. Noah Hawley's black comedy drama inspired by the Coen brothers' film of the same name, starring Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Patrick Wilson.

TUESDAY
River BBC1, 9pm
With his career resting on the outcome of his psychiatric report, the detective keeps his unofficial investigation into Stevie's death to himself. Tensions run high with his new partner Ira, who fears being dragged down by River's instability, while Chrissie needs him to investigate a suspicious workplace accident that has left a foreman fighting for his life. However, his mind is elsewhere as he discovers that Stevie had been keeping secrets from him, forcing him to reassess how well he really knew his best friend and colleague.

Catastrophe Channel 4, 10pm
Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney's charming and well-received romcom about an Irish woman and American man whose week-long affair leads to a pregnancy and subsequent tumultuous relationship, returns. The strength of the first series, which ended in February, was its intention not to shy away from the messy and awkward complications that naturally occur during a fledgling romance. And this new run begins in the same vein as the mismatched couple welcome their newborn into the world.

WEDNESDAY
Cuffs BBC1, 8pm
You're probably thinking that the last thing British telly needs right now is another crime drama – after all, we've had the likes of From Darkness, Unforgotten and River thrust upon us in recent weeks. However, the BBC promises that this is a little different. Where the aforementioned trio focus on investigations into particular crimes, Cuffs is more about the officers themselves, the bobbies on the beat who are on the frontline every day, coming face-to-face with members of the public. We'll see them deal with everything life can throw at them, from a booby-trapped cannibis farm in a suburban semi and an elderly farmer's wife with a shotgun, to middle-class dog-napping, fisticuffs between pensioners and Saturday night drinkers.



Catastrophe, Tuesday, Channel 4, 10pm

THURSDAY
Unforgotten ITV, 9pm
As the investigation into the cold-case murder continues, the forensic team discovers that the marks on the victim's body are consistent with known gangland torture methods. With this in mind, Cassie and Sunny question Sir Phillip about his involvement with a prominent East End crime family 40 years ago. Did the businessman or any of the shady associates of his youth have anything to do with Jimmy's disappearance or murder? Meanwhile, Eric and Claire's anniversary gets under way. Crime drama, starring Nicola Walker, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Trevor Eve and Tom Courtenay.

FRIDAY
Faking the Moon Landings: Conspiracy Channel 5, 8pm
Historians, scientists and former Nasa employees examine evidence that journalist Marcus Allen claims proves that the moon landings were a hoax. Cameras capture the moment former astronaut Buzz Aldrin punches film-maker Bart Sibrel in response to the accusation. Plus, British computer hacker Gary McKinnon's claims to have discovered the USA has a secret space fleet in orbit powered by alien technology.

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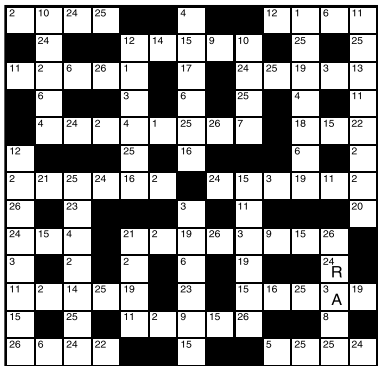
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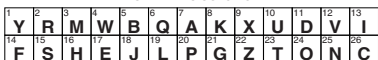
BRAIN GYM No.348

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

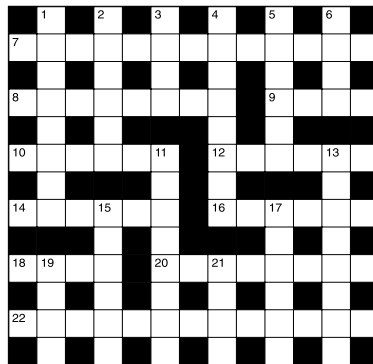
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. This causes ill-feeling in temperament (13)
- 8. One professing angelic virtues has broken harp, I notice (8)
- 9. See 18 Across
- 10. Rearrange the poster quickly (6)
- 12. Interwoven mass of seaweed (6)
- 14. Occupant at home with friend (6)
- 16. It's any diversion from commonsense (6)
- 18 & 9Ac. Unmatched description of a meeting of the common people (8)
- 20. Putting in position, we hear, for getting on target (8)
- 22. The prospects of flying observers (5-3,5)

Down

- 1. Like an escaped convict during the race (2,3,3)
- 2. Remits an amended order for these joints (6)
- 3. Work in a shop, usually (4)
- 4. Boss involved with seat of fireproof material (8)
- 5. Taken from Bristol environment (6)
- 6. Assumes the dress of lecturers in advanced education (4)
- 11. One superior to a visionary? (8)
- 13. Does this appear in the obituary column? (4,4)
- 15. Wear away a piece of ribbon, by the sound of it (6)
- 17. Being a fool a twin is confused by it (6)
- 19. Send out when sentence is up (4)
- 21. Song providing impish enjoyment (4)



Quick Clues:

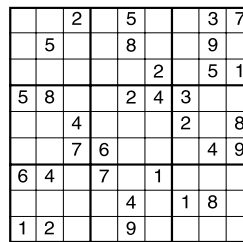
Across

- 7. Burglary (5-8)
- 8. Protector (8)
- 9. Carry on (4)
- 10. Cows (6)
- 12. Attack (6)
- 14. Increase (4,2)
- 16. Tasty morsel (6)
- 18. Goad (4)
- 20. Violent change (8)
- 22. Accidentally (13)

Down

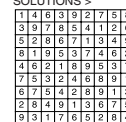
- 1. Prophecy (8)
- 2. Climb (6)
- 3. Retired (4)
- 4. Last (8)
- 5. Meat-pin (6)
- 6. Hidden difficulty (4)
- 11. Married (8)
- 13. Adequate (8)
- 15. Display (6)
- 17. Exhausts (6)
- 19. Throe (4)
- 21. Detest (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lima; 8 Blank verse; 9 Live bait; 10 Abet; 12 Disney; 14 Scrape; 15 Hammer; 17 Morose; 18 Lean; 19 Veracily; 21 Accusative; 22 Wind. Down: 2 Intimide; 3 Able; 4 Galaxy; 5 Skates; 6 Repairer; 7 Beat; 11 Ex-position; 13 Momentum; 16 Reveal; 17 Margin; 18 Liar; 20 Crew. QUICK - Across: 1 Dais; 8 Triumphant; 9 Complete; 10 Sled; 12 Prompt; 14 Evince; 15 Static; 17 Treble; 18 Acid; 19 Minister; 21 Scurriously; 22 Open. Down: 2 Autocratic; 3 Stop; 4 Silent; 5 Impede; 6 Chastise; 7 Stud; 11 Excellence; 13 Matadors; 16 Commit; 17 Tendon; 18 Also; 20 So-so.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. What does the Latin term sub judice mean?
- 2. What is the currency of Venezuela?
- 3. Who was the first president of the US to die in office?
- 4. In the Bible, what was the home town of Abraham?
- 5. What name is applied to the poets Wordsworth, Southey and Coleridge?
- 6. In what year was the Battle of Trafalgar?
- 7. What is the star Sirius better known as?
- 8. What is a narghile?
- 9. In which Australian state is Wagga Wagga?
- 10. Who was the mythical son of Laius and Jocasta?

Last week's solutions:

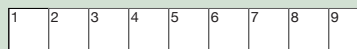
- Quiz: 1 Naboth; 2 Woodpecker; 3 The valkyries; 4 New York City; 5 Australia; 6 Zither; 7 The Tate Gallery; 8 Damascus; 9 With carrots; 10 Forces chaplain.

Niner: COASTLINE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 397 gives a boy's name,
- 65489 gives a girl's name,
- 125467 gives a boy's name.



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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

6 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to get appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

Property

accommodation to let

A FURNISHED room for single person, own kitchen area, inc TV, CH, cleaning, linen, towels, bills. £240pcm. No DSS. Stafford Road, W-ton. 07957 595940.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FURNISHED one bed flat, single / working person. £105pw. Inc some Bills. 01902 238770.

ONE BED flat, furnished, Lower Green, Tettenhall. 01902 744700 / 07765 964999.

PENFIELD W-TON 1 bed self contained flat, Dss ok. No deposit required. Call / text 07542 657703.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton. from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07970 717139

TETTENHALL COACH HOUSE
Two double bedrooms, 1 en-suite. Open plan. Front garden. Parking. £750pcm. 07969 200616.

THREE BEDROOM house, Penn Fields, CH, DG, decorated, carpeted. £500pcm. 0788 6781724.

WEDNESFIELD, Large Semi, 3 bed, CH, DG, parking, garden, no pets or DSS. 07432 509970.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

FEMALE CAT, 2 years old, neutered and chipped, all vaccinations, genuine reason for rehoming. £10. Telephone 07983 165655.

KIND HOMES WANTED GUS
2 year old short haired black and white border collie.

MADDIE
2 year old St Bernard, big gentle girl.

PATCH
Handsome black and white border collie boy.

TIGGY
3 year old Lurcher/Staffie has lived with children/dogs /cats, loves everybody.

ELIE
Very sweet 11 years old Springer / Collie
www.dogsmaritan.org.uk
01588 676106.

MINIATURE TEACUP Jack Russell Puppy, small, cute. 07510 841267.

POMERANIAN CROSS Yorkshire Terrier, 3 months old, female, injections. £300 ono. 01384 863454.

ROSEDEEN RESCUE CENTRE
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.

Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)

Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

WE ARE ALSO NOW AVAILABLE FOR PET TAXIS
(No booking necessary).

WANTED. Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

WANTED TWO yellow dimorphic hens. 01902 405640.

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY NEEDS HOMES For rescued cats and kittens. £20 adopted. 0121 502 5027.

7 Jobs

employment wanted

BRICKLAYING REQUIRES full time work, anything considered. Telephone 07871 194208.

8 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to get appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

Property

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overseas property

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properties wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 local on 07870 341 089

Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

mobile homes

LOOK

ONE BEDROOM BRAND NEW LUXURY PARK HOME
On select country park in Coven.

Nice gardens, GCH, DG. Private parking on new driveway, canal walks, nice views.

Semi retired / retired only. £68,000.

Call 07971 307903.

LOOK

7 Jobs

employment wanted

BRICKLAYING REQUIRES full time work, anything considered. Telephone 07871 194208.

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expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

Classified Ads

Classified Ads

full time - general



SKILLED MANUAL MILLER required for long established Machine Shop (Cradley Heath)

Applicants must be able to machine using their own initiative and machine work pieces up to 1,000mm cubed The type of work will range from Bronze Wear Plates to Composite/Bronze Halves; Split Bearings; Drilling; Keys; Keyways; Casings and Valve Bodies

- Excellent working conditions
- Rates of pay (dependent upon experience)
- Overtime expected when available
- Predominantly working days, but shifts will be required at times
- Experience in CNC may be beneficial, but is not essential

If you are interested in applying for the above role please send your CV to:

Dee Wheeler at dee.wheeler@westleygroup.co.uk
Westley Group, Doulton Road, Cradley Heath,
West Midlands, B64 5QN
Tel: 01384 410111



Windsor High School and Sixth Form

Headteacher: Mr K W Sorrell, B.Ed. (Hons), MA
Richmond Street, Halesowen
West Midlands B63 4BB
Tel: 0121 550 1452 Fax: 0121 585 0610
Website: www.windsor.dudley.sch.uk

We are seeking to appoint dynamic and well qualified teachers for January 2016 in the following subjects:-

- Maths
- Law ('A' Level - full/part time)
- History
- Science

Windsor High School and Sixth Form is at the forefront of curriculum innovation and is very well equipped and resourced. All subjects recruit very well in our Sixth Form.

Professional development opportunities are exceptional.

For an application pack, please visit our website, www.windsor.dudley.sch.uk or contact us on 0121 550 1452.

Closing date is Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 12.30 pm

Windsor High School and Sixth Form is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced criminal records check.

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI TT QUATTRO, 2001, 133,000 Miles, red, air con, alarm, long MOT, alloys, multi CD player, nice car, call for more details, £1,875. 01384 897776.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL
01902 317878

CHEVROLET SPARK 1000, 2012, 660 miles only, selling due to ill health, £4,000 no offers. Telephone 01902 403774.

CITROEN C1 VIBE 57 Plate, 68,000 Miles, Red, FSH, 11 Months MOT, £2,195 ono. 07479 637180.

LANDROVER FREELANDER HSE SW 1800, 05 reg, leather seats, sat nav, 5dr, excellent condition, 6 months MOT and warranty. £2,750 ono. 07803 001684 or 01952 583418.

MERCEDES 2004, C180 Classic SE petrol, 47k, EV, reversing aids, MOT, good condition, £4,250 ono. 01562 885668 / 07831 200692.

MERCEDES ADVENT GARDE 02, C Class, 220CDi, blue, all electric, 116k, FSH stamped, Very clean, £2,295 ono. 07979 784585.

MERCEDES C200 diesel, 2006, immaculate inside and out, private reg included, serviced, towbar, twin electrics, £4,250. 07811 603341.

MERCEDES C220 diesel, auto, full history, MOT till Feb 2016, £2,100 ono. 07733 272900.

MINI ONE 2003, black, 89k, England flag roof, MOT'd, good condition, £1,895 ono. 01384 440259 / 07935 337167.

MINI ONE, 2005, Diesel, full MOT, 12,000 miles, red/white, excellent condition, £2,995. 07442 091546.

NISSAN JUKE Acenta Premium PK62 VKL, red, 15,600 miles, sat nav, camera, immaculate, MOT Sept 2016, £9,490. 07437 329038.

PEUGEOT 308 1.4 VERVE 2009, red, ac, alloys, 33,000 miles, 2 owners, immaculate, £3,700. 01562 752894.

PEUGEOT 308VTI 5dr hatchback, 09 reg, dark beige, 47,000 miles, MOT Nov, excellent condition £3,500 ono. 07588 890925.

VAUXHALL CORSA VAN 1.3CDTI SPORTIF

Aircor, 2012, 1 owner, very good condition, FSH, 6-speed gearbox, alloy wheels, Zenon headlights, high miles. Superb van, silver, any trial or inspection, 1st to see will buy. £3,000. 07834 267299.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN C2, AUTOMATIC, 2006, 35,000 miles, red, electric windows, air con, alarm, long MOT, metallic paint, stop start, £1,295. 07773 996403.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6, MoT'd till Feb 2016, 52 reg, air con, elec windows, average mileage. £850 ono. 01902 895796.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 2002, 60,000 miles, blue, MoT Aug 2016, FSH, 5dr, excellent condition. £995 ono. 07434 144144.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC EDITION, X reg, MoT March, runner or ideal for spares, £500 ono. Telephone 07979 652161.

FORD FOCUS Zetec, TDCI, 2004, silver, 93k with full stamped service history, excellent condition, £1,495 o.n.o. 07939 483221.

FORD KA, 2007 reg, 1200, full MoT, silver, drives / looks superb, 52,000 miles, £1,050. 07523 729551.

FORD MONDEO ESAT 2002, petrol, 6 months MOT, 110,000 miles, £450 ono. 01902 745980 / 07581 273529.



JAGUAR XJ

2004, 89,000 miles, grey, 11 months mot, electric windows, electric mirrors, alarm, central locking, alloys, full leather interior,

Immaculate car.

£1,200 ono

07870 884108

KIA PICANTO, 55 reg, 12 months MOT, fsh, very good condition, 33,000 miles, £1,400. Telephone 07831 290688.

MERCEDES CLK 200 S reg, 1998, MoT March 16, AMG wheels, good condition, £500. 07933 701245.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, W reg, silver, 63,000 miles, 7 months MOT, good runner, £249. Telephone 07954 997652.

PEUGEOT 206CC 03 reg, MoT till March 2016, silver, 83,000 miles, good condition, £700 ono. 07543 905312.

PEUGEOT 307S 3dr, black, 53 reg, 64,000 miles, 12 months MOT, alloy wheels, excellent condition, £1,500 ono. 07825 50191.

RENAULT CLIO Expression 1.4 16V, 2004, full MOT, 5dr, black, RCL, ABS, SR, good tyres, etc, £995. o.n.o 07746 501862.

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9 ESTATE diesel, 03, 11 months MOT, reliable, high motorway miles hence £500. 07957 617779 / 01902 609608.

RENAULT MEGANE, 2003, 81k, blue, 12 months MOT, good runner. For sale due to injury. £850 ono. 07821 294677.

RENAULT MEGANE, 1.6, 56 plate, 5dr, black, manual, 63,000 miles, long MOT, E/W, PAS, A/C, good condition, £1300. 07836 897643.

SUBARU LEGACY Estate, 4 wheel drive, 51 plate, 70,000 miles, new clutch and fly wheel, £950 ono. 07949 447850.

SUZUKI ALTO GL, 1999, yellow, reliable runner, MoT'd, £400. 01384 441462.

VAUXHALL CORSA EXPRESSION 998CC 3dr, 2006, blue, only 57k, FSH, MOT, stunning condition, only £1,395. 07984 141652.

LOOK

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 LIFE 2005, silver/grey, electric windows/mirrors, air con, long MOT, fsh, central locking, stereo, CD, towbar, excellent condition. £1,250 ono. 07739 837137.

VW POLO 1.4 CL T reg, petrol, 5dr hatchback, MoT'd, 01384 279200.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.9 DIESEL, excellent condition, 1998, 9 months MOT, fully maintained, only used for fishing. £750. 07908 009210.

motorbikes

HONDA REBEL 250 CLASSIC 1998, excellent condition for age. £1,100 ono. Contact Lisa 07505 357726 / 01384 356776

driving tuition



Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris. 10 Hours £88! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered. MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS. MANUAL & AUTOMATIC. AD/POI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available. 07970 200066 / 01562 870050. 01384 234956 / 0121 5640000. 01902 580065. www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCEB TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS Tel: 01902 408176 1000's of parts available at all times. MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call. 01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Roadside, clubs and cambelts. 07747 844649.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Maria Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

PETER MASON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 19 Church Street Halesowen West Midlands B62 9LG, who died on 22/08/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 31/12/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP 195 High Street Cradley Heath West Midlands B64 5HW T45454

general

U9's West require GOALKEEPER / OUTFIELD PLAYERS. Call Daniel, 07767 684557.

U15's Girls require OUTFIELD PLAYERS. Call Sean, 07935 464079.

general

U9's West require GOALKEEPER / OUTFIELD PLAYERS. Call Daniel, 07767 684557.

general

10 Personals

personal

FUN LOVING, ACTIVE GUY AGED 61

WLTm active lady for companionship, 45-65 years. Enjoys sports, dining in and out, cinema etc.

Non smoker please. Wolverhampton, Birmingham and surrounding areas. Photo appreciated and returned.

Box Number P20096, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

I'M 58 YEARS OF AGE English gentleman, car owner, young at heart, reliable, down to earth, easy going, looking for a lady, 45 - 60ish, (size 8 to 12 ish), for companionship / relationship. Photo appreciated (returned).

Box Number P20095, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WANTED EXPLORERS ASSISTANT Optimistic Man 60's.

Kind, considerate, varied interests, seeks elegant, charming, twinkly eyed lady with a warm heart and sense of humour to help him hack through the jungle of life in the pursuit of adventure and happiness.

Box Number P20099, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

FC PERTON Charter Standard Club

Require players Under 13's.

Please call 07592 065735

WITHYMOOR COLTS Charter Standard Community Status Club.

All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked. The following Teams are looking for Players to join their current squads:

U9's West require GOALKEEPER / OUTFIELD PLAYERS. Call Daniel, 07767 684557.

U15's Girls require OUTFIELD PLAYERS. Call Sean, 07935 464079.

general

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-50) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. Text only to Mailbox No: 4550237

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4256384

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. P's call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box 410127

JOANNA, 36, petite, burn hair female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTm male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox No: 4192572

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, NS, no drinker, seeks man Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox No: 4115108

CURRY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTm tactile male farmer for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, blonde, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed blonde, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, blonde with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

visit us at: <http://dating.expressandstar.com>

CALL CHARGES: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 0781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates.com or www.localdates.com. REPLY BY TEXT: 8009889990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone numbers are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 8009889990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd. SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other advertisers and events operated by us. We may pass your details on to this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app

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For brochures please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999
(Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Treat yourself to one of our exciting festive or New Year breaks



York St Nicholas Fayre and Harrogate

Two days departing November 28

★ **PRICE FROM £99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to York St Nicholas Christmas Fayre
- Visit to Harrogate
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

New Year in Windsor and London

Two days departing December 31

★ **PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- New Year's Eve dinner and dance
- Visit to Windsor
- Free time in London for the Lord Mayor's New Year's Day Parade
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Nutcracker on Ice at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing December 28

★ **PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to The Nutcracker on Ice at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrades offered)
- Visit to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

New Year London Theatre

Three days departing December 30

★ **PRICE FROM £259.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Dinner and disco at the hotel on New Year's Eve
- Category D ticket for the evening performance of a choice of West End shows on December 30
- Excursion to central London to see the New Year's Day parade
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Christmas in Weston-Super-Mare

Five days departing December 23

★ **PRICE FROM £399**

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Christmas day lunch
- Festive treats and a visit from Santa
- Entertainment every night
- Visits to Bath, Glastonbury and Wells
- Steam train journey on the West Somerset Railway
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Two days departing December 4 and 11

★ **PRICE FROM £159.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Ticket for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- Free time in Cambridge
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

New Year in Chester

Three days departing December 30

★ **PRICE FROM £179**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to Liverpool
- Full day in Chester
- New Year's Eve party
- Optional visit to Chester Zoo
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Torquay Turkey and Tinsel

Four days departing November 20 and December 11

★ **PRICE FROM £139**

Grab an early Christmas celebration and join this popular Turkey and Tinsel break, staying in Torquay on the beautiful English Riviera.

En route from the Midlands visit Exeter with its beautiful cathedral, medieval houses and vibrant shopping centre – perfect for some last minute purchases - before the festivities at the hotel start with a sherry reception. Dinner and entertainment in the evening are included. After all, this is "Christmas Eve".

If a little fresh air is needed to stimulate the appetite on "Christmas Day", an optional excursion aboard the Dartmouth Steam Railway is offered passing through spectacular coastline scenery, bringing the chance to explore the town of Dartmouth itself.

A traditional meal with all the trimmings is included at the hotel, followed by festive entertainment.

The four-day itinerary allows for free time in Torquay too, plus another optional trip to Dartmoor Zoo, which has been transformed to a popular tourist attraction, gaining publicity for the Mee family from the book and film "We Bought A Zoo".

Exmouth is the final destination with the chance to join an optional cruise along the River Exe. On board enjoy mulled wine and mince pies whilst admiring the Jurassic coast, the perfect end to a pre-Christmas break.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Christmas Turkey and Tinsel programme and nightly entertainment in our hotel
- Christmas meal with all the trimmings
- Free time in Torquay
- Visits to Exeter and Exmouth
- Optional excursions offered
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Winchester and Salisbury Christmas Markets

Two days departing December 12

★ **PRICE FROM £95**

Join this festive break and enjoy the atmosphere of these fascinating historical cities as they come alive with Christmas magic.

Winchester offers an intriguing combination of medieval and Georgian architecture with crystal-clear waterways. Its Christmas Market, held in the spectacular setting of Cathedral Close, is recognised as one of the best in Europe offering more unusual and high quality products, guaranteed to inspire gift ideas.

There will also be an abundance of food and drink including mulled wine, bratwurst, mince pies and stolen.

The beautiful city of Salisbury hosts its market on Guildhall Square decorated with fairy lights and real Christmas trees, a perfect setting against the imposing backdrop of the cathedral. There will be chalets selling desirable gifts, a festive grotto and traditional music by local choirs and schools.

Away from the centre explore the many shops some of which are housed in charming half-timbered buildings with quaint street names to add to the sense of history.

Of course there is Salisbury Cathedral itself (entrance not included and subject to opening times) with the chance to climb the 332 steps to the base of the spire for magnificent views across the city.

INFO

- Return coach travel
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Winner for the Midlands

By John Griffiths

If you're already a biker, you will know how some bikes can stir your soul, make your heart beat faster at the mere anticipation of the thrills to come.

This is the essence of Triumph's Speed Triple, the urgent beat of the engine through the tuned exhausts from the moment you turn the key is a sensation to stir the blood.

This beast of a bike is all about sensations, from its aggressive looks to its almost brutal power.

It delivers, too, a factory-built 'naked' machine with sports bike performance: blistering acceleration and track day speeds in excess of 150mph are possible (if you could hang on to it).

The £9,749 Speed Triple is designated a roadster, or 'streetfighter' design with sharp, angular lines and, of course, no fairing or screen so you do feel the pressure of 70mph headwinds on motorway runs. It helps to keep you legal on a bike which is clearly capable of so much more, but since you risk your licence by using its full power that's academic anyway.

But the hefty helping of power is very useful lower down, where overtaking on heavy trafficked roads is a breeze. For a high performance bike revving up to 10,500rpm, it has an almost surprising urge and pick-up in the low to mid-ranges, typically from 3,000 to 6,000rpm where it pulls like a train. That rapid beat on tickover hints at what is to come, and here it does – a little tweak on the throttle has you rocketing forward.

The first Speed Triple appeared in 1994, but it has undergone a number of upgrades including a bigger, more powerful engine and new chassis.

The current model is powered by Triumph's signature 1,050cc, three-cylinder, fuel injected engine with a hefty 135bhp and 111Nm of torque on tap.

The triple already has a distinctive soundtrack, and Triumph has tuned the twin exhausts like a musical instrument to make the most of that asset. It's a very pleasing accompaniment to your ride.

The Speed Triple is fairly tall for its class, with plenty of ground clearance and high mounted footpegs for those who indulge in particularly enthusiastic cornering.

The side effect is that when you get aboard you do feel a bit like a jockey, but the bars are fairly wide and high so the riding position proved surprisingly comfortable over long distances, even for a set of old bones prone to stiffening up these days.

The only drawback, common to all streetfighter designs, is the wind pressure which can make long motorway runs quite tiring. You could always fit a screen, but it would need to be carefully chosen not only for its effectiveness but also its impact on the funky, sharp lines of the bike itself.

The small, solid deflector behind the 'bug eye' twin headlights seems to do its work surprisingly well at A-road speeds, smoothing the airflow enough to prevent buffeting while allowing enough cooling air for those wearing full kit on a warm day.

Maybe because of aerodynamic issues, the Speed Triple doesn't feel as light through the twisty bits as some dedicated sports machines, but once settled into a bend it is highly stable and composed. The suspension, while



sportily firm, soaks up bumps and doesn't rattle your teeth even over poorer surfaces.

It's a good set-up, especially since the rear-most of the two 17-inch wheels is shod with ultra low-profile 190/55 tyres (120/70 at the front).

The Speed Triple's Brembo brakes are outstanding: twin 320mm discs with four pis-

ton calipers at the front and a single Nissin 255mm disc with twin pistons at the rear.

The bike shares its engine, albeit a little modified, with the full on sports bike, the Sprint ST, which gives some indication of its character. With physical and legal limits discouraging the use of its full range of power, its blistering acceleration and overtaking ability

means it nonetheless offers all the sensations and thrills of fast bike riding: perhaps more so because of your exposure to the elements. And that signature triple soundtrack is the icing on the cake.

Factor in its looks and attitude, and you can see why it's been a winner for the Midlands firm, with more than 70,000 sales so far.

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Minibus fits bill on city streets and open roads

By John Griffiths

A big nine-seater minibus with a mere 1.6 litres under the bonnet – just a few years ago the idea would have been almost laughable.

But the new Renault Trafic Passenger is a graphic illustration of how far the motor industry has come on fuel efficiency: smaller, cleaner but still powerful engines which are better for the environment as well as the operator's pockets.

In fact over its 35 year life and successive modifications, the 1.6 diesel (in single and twin turbo versions, with a range of outputs) had become the standard, compared to the 2.5 and later 2.0 litre units which previously provided the motive power.

The test version, in Business specification, was powered by the 115Ps turbo diesel, the middle of the three options, also produces 300Nm of torque, much of it available from engine speeds barely above tickover.

Commercial

With its six-speed gearbox, it's equally at home on city streets or open roads, and whether you have just the driver on board or a full complement of nine adults seems to make little difference.

This, after all, a minibus but it's based on a commercial vehicle chassis and drivetrain capable of carrying much heavier loads – some 1,239kg in this 115Ps, standard wheelbase version.

In passenger guise, the 115 Trafic SWB is capable of averaging 43.5mpg, according to official figures, with 170g/km of Co2.

Other options now include the latest twin turbo dCi power plants, with 125Ps and 145Ps respectively, which offer more power and torque but are leaner and cleaner, too, meeting the latest EU6b emissions regulations.

The nine seats are set in three rows of three, the second and third rows of which are easily removable without the use of tools which adds flexibility to the vehicle for business users who only occasionally need to transport customers or employees.

Access is via large sliding doors on either side, with the second row seat on the nearside folding forward to make access easier to the third row. All the seats have head restraints and three-point seatbelts.

The driver has a commanding view, not only in front but all round thanks to the large passenger windows and big, commercial vehicle style wing mirrors which are electrically adjustable.

The tall seat has height and lumbar support adjustment, and you get a fold-down armrest, too.

The steering is light and the braking system (discs all round with ABS) is progressive and effective – not too sharp that it will upset your passengers.

Slick

The short gear level, mounted on a pod in the centre console, has a slick, easy action but the handbrake - mounted on the floor – is a bit of a reach.

Fortunately that's not much of an issue in everyday driving as the hill start assist system is so effective even with a full complement of passengers that reaching for the lever is more seeking comfort than a real need.

The standard wheelbase version has a turning circle of under 12 metres, so it isn't difficult to manoeuvre around town and in car parks, particularly with such an excellent all round view.

Aerodynamic and sound-deadening measures have made the latest Trafic range quieter, which is just as important to a working vehicle as a purely passenger one.

It comes with electric windows, a whole raft of cabin storage areas, and new technology in the form of a DAB digital radio, Bluetooth and USB connectivity.

Like its commercial cousin, the Passenger is also fitted with safety systems including stability and traction control, plus a anti-trailer swing system if you need to tow.

Higher grade vehicles also come with the benefit of features such as air conditioning, cruise control, parking sensors, satnav, alloy wheels and automatic headlights.

Gas-filled struts make light work of opening the large – full width and height – rear cargo door, with a flat load floor at just about knee height to store cases and bags behind the third row seats.

Operators of the long wheelbase version get enough space there to take a large family and all their luggage on a fortnight's holiday.

There are lots of storage spaces, including cupholders, neatly placed within the driver's reach.

Prices start from £26,780 for the SWB 95dCi model rising to £32,335 for the top specification Sport version, with long wheelbase body and the latest 145Ps twin turbo engine.



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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 28.0 – 70.6 (10.1 – 4.0), Extra Urban 45.6 – 85.6 (6.2 – 3.3), Combined 36.7 – 78.5 (7.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 179 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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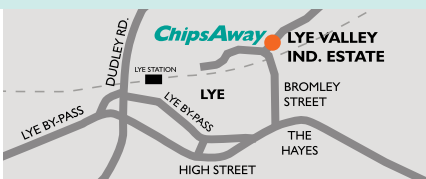
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Quickest ever with RS badge

The new Ford Focus RS is the fastest ever accelerating car to wear the company's legendary RS badge. Capable of 0-62mph in 4.7 seconds, the Focus RS will reach a top speed of 165mph and cost from £28,940.

It comes with a 350hp 2.3-litre turbocharged petrol engine and has four-wheel drive to make sure all of the

power can be used safely. There are also different drive modes to allow the driver to tailor the car to the conditions or his preferences, including a drift mode inspired by Ford's Rally X racer Ken Block.

The new Focus RS is the 30th car to wear the RS badge and is one of 12 new performance models Ford has planned between now and 2020. Deliveries to customers will begin in early 2016 and the Focus RS is available to order now.

Ford sees the Focus RS's rivals as the Audi RS3 and Mercedes A45 AMG. Jurgen Gagstatter, chief programme engineer for the Focus RS, said: "The all-new Focus RS delivers stunning performance that will make our customers and premium car makers look twice."

"After experiencing the acceleration and cornering capability of the Focus RS, drivers will question the sense in spending £10,000 more on a premium competitor."

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Stone take the spoils from battling Tipton side

Stone Old Alleynians 4 Tipton 2
 BOTTOM club Tipton put up a battling display in a 4-2 West Midlands Premier defeat at Stone Old Alleynians.

The home side went ahead in the seventh minute when Ben Lewes latched on to a half-clearance.

Tipton began to work their way back into the game with Alex Taffe and Matt Weyman causing concern for the hosts.

And their efforts were rewarded with an equaliser on 36 minutes when Jon Crawford fired home.

Stone were back ahead a minute before the break when Ollie Davies rattled home a splendid volley.

Back came Tipton after half-time and they were level again when Marvin Whitter tucked away Matt Weyman's inviting cross.

Despite the home club's growing confidence Tipton refused to be cowed and Gregg Grey's clever chip in the 25th minute creating alarm in the home penalty area before the ball was expelled at considerable height out of play.

Tipton were coming much more into the picture with Alex Taffe and Matt Weyman both creating some concern for the Stone defence.

Tipton, faring far better than in previous games this season, continued to compete with alacrity - missing so often this season - and on 36 minutes Jon Crawford collected, shimmied and arrowed a delightful and welcome equalizer for the Black Country club. On 65 minutes Stone went ahead for a third time when Grant Bigham forced the ball home.

Adam Heath made the game safe for Stone in the final minute.

Hillman gets the winner for Sports

Dudley Sports 2 Malvern 1
 MALVERN took an eighth minute lead when Hooper finished off a fine move.

Sports were soon looking to draw level.

The goal eventually came in the 80th minute when Stuart Hillman converted a penalty after Shp Machingauta was brought down.

Sports grabbed the winner through Hillman.

Dudley Sports 3 Haughmond 1
 DUDLEY SPORTS profited from a controversial 'ghost goal' as they beat Shropshire side Haughmond.

The game was locked at 1-1 with 15 minutes remaining when Carl Rogers put the visitors in front.. But the referee instantly ruled out the strike.

Sports went on to score two late goals and run out 3-1 winners.

Heathens book into grand final

CRADLEY booked their place in the Knockout Cup Grand Final for a fourth successive season with a 57-33 second-leg victory against King's Lynn.

They were due to face Eastbourne at Perry Barr, this week with the return at Arlington on Saturday.

A dominant performance saw the Heathens claim a 108-72 aggregate win to set up a final clash where they will do battle with in-form Eastbourne.

Spearhead duo Max Clegg and Matt Williamson inspired the reigning cup holders as they went unbeaten by an opposition rider for a second week running.

The Heathens suffered their fair share of bad luck in the opening races and mixed with some early re-

silience from the visitors, Cradleyfound themselves trailing by two-points with four heats gone and so looked to get back into the contest.

In another high quality advert for third tier speedway, the entertainment which was evident in the opening race set the tone for the rest of the meeting.

Worked

King's Lynn No.1 Tom Stokes led for three laps before Heathens skipper Max Clegg worked his way around the outside on the entry to lap four.

Arron Mogridge then dived up the inside on bend one to move in front of Stokes before falling.

However, the Heathens made their comeback good and took the lead in heat five.

The Young Stars found themselves on a 5-1 from the gate before a super effort from Mogridge and Ritchings saw them turn the race into a maximum advantage of their own after two classy swoops around the outside from both.

The outcome means it would be the first of eight race advantages for the hosts.

Cradley 57: Matt Williamson 14+1, Max Clegg 14+1, Arron Mogridge 11+1, Darryl Ritchings 11+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 5+1, Tyler Govier 2, Nathan Greaves R/R.

King's Lynn 33: Ryan Kinsley 9+1, Shane Hazelden 7+1, Tom Stokes 6, Layne Cupitt 5, Josh Bailey 4+3, Scott Campos 2+1, Jake Knight R/R.

Pressure put on Pershore pays off

Old Halesonians 4ths 24 Pershore 2nds 7
FROM the start Old Hales moved up field.

A well-weighted kick ahead allowed Calum Roberts to put pressure on the Pershore fullback forcing him to carry the ball and touch down over his own line.

From the ensuing scrum Old Hales No. 8 Glen "Maz" Marriot picked up and forced his way towards the try line.

He was tackled just short but Dave Crampton in support scooped up the ball and dived over the try line to score.

Old Hales continued to put pressure on the Pershore defence and after only nine minutes of play the home side won a lineout 10 metres from the Pershore line.

Maz secured the ball at the back of the driving maul and as it crossed the try line he dropped on the ball to score.

Gaz Price added the conversion for a 12-0 lead.

The remainder of the first half was a close fought contest with both sides testing each other's defence.

Discipline

During this period the players discipline was also tested with some puzzling decisions and a lack of communication by the referee, however, both teams behaved admirably and got on with the game.

Pershore started the second half with some added vigour and regularly attacked Old Hales in midfield.

Old Hales defended well but finally they were stretched too far and Pershore crossed for a deserved try.

The try was converted to make the score 12-7.

Old Hales got back on the attack and from a ruck close to the Pershore try line Gavin Evans, playing scrum half, gave an audacious dummy before stepping over the try line to score.

Gaz Price confidently landed the conversion from wide out on the left.

Old Hales wrapped up their league win when their dominant scrum forced Pershore over their own line and Maz picked up once again to score his second try of the game..

Old Hales scorers:

Swimmers get funding boost



Olympic dreams Black Country swimmers Brittany Horton and Chloe Finch

TWO Black Country swimmers have seen their future medal prospects boosted after receiving top level funding.

Chloe Finch, from Rowley Regis, and Brittany Horton, from Brierley Hill, have both been identified as potential stars of the future by British Swimming.

The two athletes, who represent City of Birmingham, have been chosen in a group of 66 swimmers

who will receive funding for the 2015/16 season.

Finch and Horton are in a group of 45 competitors in British Swimming's podium potential category.

As well as financial instalments, they will also have access to advanced training camps and sports science and medicine services.

The selection means both are seen as genuine medal prospects for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The other 21 athletes have been placed in the World Class programme with the potential to medal in Rio next year.

"Both girls are over the moon to be chosen for podium funding," coach Carl Grosvenor said. "They get financial backing but they also get access to strength and conditioning supportand it will allow them to be a lot more professional."

Tividale steel their first away point

Stockbridge PS 1 Tividale 1
 TIVIDALE came away from what looked like a difficult away fixture at Stockbridge Park Steels with a well-deserved point from a single goal each draw.

But both sides had chances to take all three points but neither one could exploit them to the full.

Stocksbridge had the first attempt when a Corey Gregory shot was parried by Tom Turner straight into the path of Scott Ruthven but frustratingly he shot wide.

Tividale took the lead on 13 minutes when they won a free-kick on the edge of the Stocksbridge area.

Mark Danks got two bites of the cherry when he stepped up to take it and although his initial effort was smashed into the wall he calmly controlled the rebound and placed it past Stocksbridge keeper David Reay.

This was the spur for Stocksbridge to take the game to Tividale from the start of the second half.

Five minutes into the second half a Danny Critchlow header which came from a Gregory cross was deflected wide.

However, five minutes later Rory Coleman tried a speculative free-kick that Turner also watched sail wide.

Gregory and Critchlow teamed up again and the latter's header was tipped over the bar by Turner.

Nine minutes from time the home side won a free kick.

Although Turner got a hand to Coleman's strike the Tividale keeper could not keep it from hitting the back of the net.

Neither team could find a winning goal .

Not time for Villa to panic, says McLeish

ALEX McLeish says pressing the panic button and firing Villa manager Tim Sherwood now would be 'ridiculous'.

Sherwood's future at Villa is in doubt after his fifth league defeat in a row but McLeish says the current manager needs more time to allow his new signings to settle into the team.

"Tim should definitely get a chance, it's ridiculous if they press the button again," said McLeish, who managed Villa during the 2011/12 season and ended his spell as statistically the worst manager the club had ever had.

"When you lose Benteke and you lose Delph, lose guys like that, then the quality doesn't go up. It's a real tough job for Tim."

McLeish did say Villa needed months to settle rather than weeks.

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Albion and Villa fans pay the least

ALBION and Villa supporters continue to pay some of the cheapest ticket prices in the Premier League, according to the BBC's annual price of football study.

The results of the study, released last night, also reveal Wolves to offer some of the best value in the Championship, despite the most expensive season ticket at Molineux costing more than that at The Hawthorns. Villa have the highest-priced season ticket in the region at £615 but their cheapest, at £335, is among the lowest on offer in the Premier League.

Albion supporters pay a minimum of £399 for a season ticket, an increase of £50 on last season, though the study found the majority of season tickets at The Hawthorns are purchased at a cheaper price than those at Villa Park.

At £535, Wolves' dearest season ticket is £26 more expensive than that of their Black Country rivals, though the cheapest season ticket

at Molineux is among the best priced in the Championship at £299.

The study revealed Walsall's prices remain among the cheapest in League One, while Kidderminster Harriers' 'Aggborough Pie' continues to be the most expensive in English football, priced at £4.50.

On a national level, the West Midlands is among the cheapest places to watch Premier League football in the country.

Arsenal have the most expensive season ticket, with supporters paying a minimum of £1,014 to watch the campaign at the Emirates.

Reading sell the cheapest season ticket in the Championship at just £135, while Fulham, who charge up to £829, has the dearest.

In League One, the cheapest season ticket can be found at Bradford, where it can be as little as £149 for the season.

Yeltz let three go and bring one in to boost defence

HALESOWEN TOWN have confirmed the trio of Greg Pearson, Anthony Charles and George McGee have left the club.

Former Football League forward Pearson, who spent four years at Burton Albion, has only found the net twice this season.

Central defender Charles has been struggling with an injury.

Meanwhile, Hill has added signed defender Bradley Lewis from Villa.

The left-sided central defender, 20, has been at Villa Park since the age of seven years old and has represented England at under-16 level.

The former Villa Under-18s captain went straight into last night's squad to face Stamford.

● A 74th minute goal from substitute Jean Michel Guyes gave Halesowen a deserved 2-1 win at Stamford this week.

It was a much better performance by the Yeltz, who gave former Villa youngster Bradley Lewis a debut in defence. They took the lead through Danny Bragoli only to see Shawn Richards equalise but Michel-Guyes' won it.

Whiley aiming to end season in style

US Open champion Jordanne Whiley is aiming to end her ground-breaking season in style.

Whiley from Halesowen will be lining up for the 2015 NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters on 2-6 December at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

For the second successive year world No.4 Whiley is set to return to the scene of her London 2012 women's doubles bronze medal-winning performance with Lucy Shuker.

Both Brits are among the elite women's field of eight players this year for the International's Tennis Federation's year-end singles championship.

Tennis

Whiley is aiming to build on the first Grand Slam and Super Series singles titles of her career, both of which have come this year in the wake of a thrilling semi-final appearance at the NEC Masters in 2014.

"I love playing in front of large crowds, especially my home crowd," said Whiley.

"The British public are so great at getting behind their athletes, so I'd appeal to them to come along and do what you do best... Cheer loudly!" added Whiley.

Whiley won her first Super Series singles title at the British Open in Nottingham in July shortly after partnering Japan's Yui Kamiji to win their second Wimbledon doubles title together.

She then went on to beat Kamiji in the women's singles final of the US Open and recently collected her MBE for services to wheelchair tennis from HRH The Princess Royal.

"I didn't expect so many people to come and support us at the last year's Masters with it being the first year that it was held in London, so I was pleasantly surprised and I hope everyone who came last year will come back."

Visit www.wheelchairtennismasters.com.

WIN SNATCHED FROM YELTZ

Halesowen Town 1 Ashton United 2
ASHTON turned the game around with two second half goals to keep up their 100 per cent Northern Premier League record against Halesowen.

Jeff King drove over the Halesowen bar after 15 minutes and a 22nd minute free-kick from Paul Marshall sailed through a crowded home area into Matt Sargeant's arms.

Cavell Coe then flashed a shot wide of the Yeltz goal after linking up well with Dale Johnson in the 29th minute following a good spell of pressure from the visitors.

The ever sharp Martin Pilkington caused huge damage to the Yeltz in the corresponding fixture last season and he made a cracking surge forward in the 34th minute before only finally being arrested by Asa Charlton's tackle on the edge of the area.

In truth, the Yeltz failed to produce the anticipated reaction to the previous Tuesday's heavy defeat and created little until a speculative shot from Reece Hales drifted wide after 42 minutes in a disappointingly lack-lustre display.

Unexpected

But despite the Robins creating the better first half chances, Halesowen grabbed a somewhat unexpected lead in first half injury time when Danny Bragoli headed home at the far post directly from a well delivered corner from Aaron Griffiths.

But the lead slipped away after the interval as Pilkington shattered the Yeltz by nipping in to touch the ball around goalkeeper Sargeant and stab Ashton's 56th minute equaliser into an empty net after catching out Rob Elvins and Sargeant to a long ball straight down the centre.

Hales fired just wide again for the Yeltz from 25 yards after 62 minutes and Joe Hull then blasted narrowly wide as Hales crossed from the left.

But the Robins broke straight up the field and Johnson collected a pass along goal before skipping a challenge from Elvins to poke home a simple winner through the legs of goalkeeper Sargeant after 65 minutes.

FA letter is warning to McLean



Sunderland's Danny Graham and Albion's James McClean in a spat after the game has ended

JAMES McCLEAN has been given a slap on the wrist by the FA for his celebration in front of the Sunderland fans on Saturday.

Escaping a fine or a ban, McClean has been formally warned about his behaviour in a written letter.

Both Albion and Sunderland have also been reminded of their responsibilities following the 22-man melee after the final whistle.

"We've contacted him and we've formally warned him of his behaviour," said an FA official. "The match referees reported the incident to us but he wasn't aware of the specifics. Obviously we investigated it, looked at the footage, and have taken no further steps."

The 26-year-old Republic of Ireland international wandered over to the corner of the Smeethwick End and the East Stand after full-time on Saturday to celebrate with Albion fans. He then aimed a clenched fist in celebration at the visiting fans, which Danny Graham and Lee Cattermole took umbrage to.

They shoved the former Sunderland player, sparking pushes between both teams, before Craig Gardner smuggled McClean down the tunnel.

The winger was meeting Sunderland for the first time since he left the club in 2013. Back in 2012, some fans in the North East disliked his decision not to wear a poppy on his shirt.

Villa is now a laughing stock – Stan

FORMER Villa star Stan Collymore has launched a blistering attack on his old club after being sacked from his match-day programme column.

The former striker, who grew up in Cannock, says he has been shown the door by the Villa Park hierarchy after weighing in to support under-fire boss Tim Sherwood and criticism of the club on his radio show.

Collymore tore into the club's bosses and claimed they have turned the club he played for and supported since boyhood into a laughing stock.

The former Forest and Liverpool man has written a column free of charge for the matchday programme for the last six years. But after being told it was being pulled, Collymore posted a link to his hundreds of thousands of Twitter followers lambasting owner Randy Lerner and chief executive Tom Fox. In it described he labels the last six years as "complete and utter dross" on the pitch.

The 44-year-old stormed: "After six years of doing an official Aston Villa programme column,

"I've been notified by the club that they no longer wish me to continue due to my support of Tim Sherwood and fierce criticism of the ownership and club structure.

"The club felt in essence that it would be inappropriate for me to write positively in a column whilst being critical on air or in a newspaper. The column I have written for six years was at no charge to Aston Villa."

He added: "On the watch of Mr Lerner, and Tom Fox as chief executive, and Paul Faulkner before him, the club I have supported since childhood have become the laughing stock of the Premier League. This, England's fourth most successful football club."

Villa declined to comment.

New coach looks to bring edge to Albion

ALBION'S new first-team coach Ben Garner said he wants to help give the Baggies an attacking edge to add to their defensive solidity.

The 35-year-old, who joined at the end of last week, helped Crystal Palace establish themselves as a Premier League club, and now he wants to push Albion further up the league.

"With Tony you will always have a strong platform," said Garner. "The level of detail he puts into team is excellent, bar none. Here we want to build from that platform, develop the attacking side of the game and be a threat."

A fractured ankle ended his career.

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